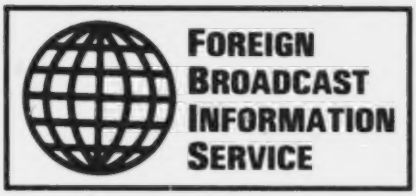

Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-012 *20 January 1988*

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Duarte Holds End of Summit News Conference

PA171907 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0007 GMT 17 Jan 88

[News conference given by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte with national and foreign correspondents at the Central American Institute of Business Administration in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] [Reporter] On previous occasions you have described the steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government as cosmetic and superficial. Upon your arrival, you said that the hour of truth had come and that Nicaragua had not complied with the agreements. What is your impression about the measures taken by President Daniel Ortega's government, about his announcements, and about their extent?

[Duarte] First, I would like to greet the Salvadoran and foreign correspondents who are here to receive the presidents' report on the progress made by the Esquipulas II agreements.

I would like to tell you that when I arrived in Costa Rica 2 days ago, I made some statements regarding my interpretations of the Esquipulas II document. I evaluated how each of the countries had fulfilled the agreements.

I clearly said there that, regarding the fulfillment of Esquipulas II, I speak with moral authority because I have fulfilled the agreements, and I hope my fellow colleagues will judge me, but with the same authority I will assess what the fulfillment of each of them has been. With absolute clarity in this aspect, my impression is that Nicaragua has not fulfilled them.

Even before coming here, my position in all of the previous discussions has always been the same: We cannot accept less than the total and absolute fulfillment of this document; that is what the declaration states. The declaration states the following: Not being entirely satisfied with the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements, the presidents agree to unconditionally and unilaterally meet obligations that compel the governments to totally and inexcusably fulfill the agreements. Furthermore, the declaration states that the commitments that have not been fulfilled by the governments must be immediately fulfilled in a public and evident manner. The declaration outlines these unconditional, unilateral, total, inexcusable, immediate, public, and evident commitments. The declaration states that the commitments are those regarding cease-fire negotiations, amnesty, and especially democratization, which necessarily includes the lifting of the state of emergency, total freedom of the press, political pluralism, and the dismantlement of special tribunals.

Moreover, in our declaration we emphasized the following concept: Aware of their historic responsibility to their people, the presidents reiterate—listen carefully—their willingness to comply with the agreements as they are stated; that is, in a total, inexcusable, unconditional, unilateral, immediate, public, and evident manner. That is what this concept means.

Furthermore, the document states: The presidents reiterate their firm desire to meet their commitments as expressed, which they consider unrenounceable and unalterable, and pledge to fulfill the pending commitments immediately and without reticence. The presidents are aware that it will be their peoples, and you naturally, who will be judging whether or not they have kept their part of the agreement.

Today we heard President Ortega mention the steps he is planning to take. I told President Ortega that I demand a total, complete, and immediate fulfillment of everything; it is the only way that a word given can be respected. But, I added, if you do not want to fulfill it that way, I accept your position. You can fulfill your pledge as you wish, but I will be waiting for you when you have fulfilled your pledges. Consequently, the Nicaraguan president's declaration represents the first step. What does this mean? That something was achieved in this session. We did not see this yesterday. Yesterday was zero hour, but we did not see these results yesterday. This happened today. We have made progress.

President Ortega has said he will talk with the insurgent groups in an attempt to reach a cease-fire. He said he will approach them through indirect negotiations with some foreign representatives and a Nicaraguan representative. He said these talks will be held in Costa Rica. President Ortega had refused to do this in the past; however, today he has agreed to do it. We welcome this decision. I am glad he has decided to do this.

Is this enough? As far as I am concerned, it is not. It is the right approach, however, and we cannot deny it is a tiny step forward. It does not encompass all that we wanted, because there are still some limitations. However, things are more limited when they talk about the implementation of Amnesty Law No 33, particularly where it says that they are willing to free those people if the U.S. Government or any other non-Central American government decides to welcome them in their territory, and that they may return to Nicaragua when the war ends. This is called exile, so they are changing prison for exile and establishing conditions. This ruling does not abide by the Esquipulas II agreements.

But is this a bad move? No. It is a step President Ortega is taking. We can accept it if we bear in mind that he is making some concessions. However, it is not enough from my viewpoint or from the viewpoint of what we have signed here in San Jose. However, this is a good sign; perhaps tomorrow President Ortega will make even more concessions. I hope he does.

I believe Nicaragua's decision represents the first fruit of this meeting. I hope that tomorrow he will issue the orders and instructions to return the radio stations and television channels to their owners; to authorize newscasts so that there is freedom of expression; to allow political participation; and to stop sending people to jail simply because they do not share the government's views. I feel it is our responsibility to encourage trust among the people and the opposition and to let them feel there is freedom. We must guarantee freedom of mobilization and organization.

Now regarding El Salvador, I hope to hear tomorrow that all aid to the FMLN and FDR terrorist organizations will stop and that Nicaragua will do as President Arias has suggested. President Arias suggested that Nicaragua expel from its territory all the rebel leaders and thus contribute to ending the war against the Salvadoran people.

I expect more, much more. However, I cannot deny this is a sign of goodwill shown on the 1st day and as a first step. I will accept that this is a good beginning; however, here is the document that states that President Ortega must abide by everything established in the agreements and that we must all abide by what is established in the agreements. He is not the only one committed to this endeavor. The International Verification and Follow-up Commission [CIVS] report included recommendations for all of us. We must correct what is wrong. Only in this manner can we achieve peace in Central America.

The CIVS reviewed each of the points of discrepancy among the presidents. Therefore, we must accept this report. Upon review of the report we found that there are things for all of us to do. Some of us will have more to do than others.

At the beginning of the meeting I clearly stated my position. Now I can tell you that my position was clearly and categorically stated in the document. If you read it, you will see that what I have said is true. I will accept nothing less than the fulfillment of this document. I believe this is a very important document. I believe Esquipulas II is a historic document. I have described the document as Central America's second act of independence. In our act of independence we stated that we would not allow anyone, no foreign force, to intervene on our soil, in our minds, or in our decisions. This is why this document rejects all aid to insurgents no matter where this aid may come from—Nicaragua, Cuba, the USSR, or the United States. This aid is not good because it destroys every possibility to achieve peace in Central America.

I have extended myself a bit with this answer, but I am hoping to compensate for the fact that I was not given the opportunity to make an opening statement.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] return of tens of thousands of Central American refugees to their homeland. What are you planning to do with the thousands of Salvadoran refugees scattered around the world?

[Duarte] What will El Salvador do with all the Salvadoran refugees? I am going to read what our Constitution states:

Article 5. Every person is free to enter, remain, and leave Salvadoran territory except for those restricted by law. No one can be forced to move from his town or home except in special cases. These special cases will be handled according to the law. Furthermore—and pay attention to this—no Salvadoran can be forced to leave the country nor can he be banned from entering the country. No Salvadoran citizen may be denied his passport or documents for his return to the country. Likewise, no Salvadoran may be refused permission to leave the country except through a request presented by the authorities as established by our laws.

What are we going to do? We are going to abide by our laws. This means that a Salvaldoran who wishes to return, and many have already done so, will be welcome as long as he has broken no laws. Anyone who has broken the laws of the country falls under another category. If a Salvadoran has broken no laws, then he has every right to return to his country.

Approximately 2 months ago Ungo and Zamora returned to the country. Everyone thought they would be barred from returning, but that was not the case. They returned to the country, held meetings, and did many other things. We did not harass them. We did not arrest them, much less order them out. We are building a democracy in El Salvador, and this is a basic right of all mankind.

Thank you.

[Teffel] President Duarte, I am very happy to see you here again in Costa Rica. My name is Alan Teffel from Noticiero El Pensamiento, Managua. I have two questions for you.

First, does this meeting conclude the rounds of talks among the Central American presidents?

Second, following President Ortega's announcement, we see there is some hope for peace in Nicaragua. However, I heard you say earlier that everyone had his own views regarding talks with the guerrillas. What was said about El Salvador? Will the war continue?

[Duarte] That is one of the sad points. At all the meetings we hear about Nicaragua and the contras. All the people who visit our country speak of Nicaragua and the contras. However, no one talks about El Salvador or what is happening in El Salvador. They do not mention the FMLN-FDR problem, the terrorism they practice, or the

support they receive from Nicaragua, Cuba, the USSR, and others. No one has bothered to ask about Cuba's position on this problem, but everyone asks about the U.S. position on the contras. Basically, the FMLN is supported by Cuba and Nicaragua. This is something we have tried to bring to the table.

When we were broaching the issue of U.S. policy in the area, one of the presidents said: One of the serious problems we have is the FMLN in El Salvador. They are destroying the country's economy; they are destroying the country's communications and power systems; they are destroying lives; they are destabilizing the economy. However, the world has forgotten El Salvador and only speaks of Nicaragua and the contras.

I have been promoting a permanent dialogue with the rebels in El Salvador. We have already had between 11 and 14 meetings with the rebels. We are looking for a way to tell the terrorists that they have no historical reason for doing what they are doing, and that they should join the democratic process. It was precisely today that we were discussing the groups up in arms—the FMLN, the URNG, the contras.

We must make those groups understand that violence is not the solution to the problem; we must make them understand that Esquipulas II does not promote violence and war; we must ask them to join the democratic process and set violence aside. The document we issued states: The fulfillment of Esquipulas II implies the follow-up of obligations that include an already established strategy of arms limitations and of agreements on security and disarmament.

On the subject of disarmament, Esquipulas II states: The governments of the five countries, with the participation of the Contadora Group as mediator, commit themselves to continue negotiations to reach agreements in the fields of security, etc. These negotiations must also include measures to achieve the disarmament of the unconventional groups and to promote the amnesty decrees. This is the idea behind Esquipulas II.

Esquipulas II also states: We will recognize no rebel force in Central America, regardless of its political leanings. This means that the rebel forces must set aside violence, accept amnesty, put down their weapons, and join the democratic process. This applies to what Daniel Ortega will choose to say when he talks to the contras, to the words Vinicio Cerezo will choose when he talks to the Guatemalan guerrillas, and it also applies to Jose Napoleon Duarte and his choice of words in his talks with the FMLN-FDR.

However, this does not mean that we must not look for other ways to achieve peace and reconciliation. This statement basically states that the armed groups, the rebels, or the insurgents—as they prefer to call themselves—must be given their own political opening to enable them to join the democratic process. That is what we are doing in El Salvador. We are giving them their own political space. We decreed an amnesty; we are promoting a cease-fire; we are urging them to join in the democratic process; we have freedom of expression, press, and assembly; we are putting an end to the state of siege. We have done all this in hopes of opening a door for the rebels to join the process.

Regarding Nicaragua, there will be no peace in Central America if there is no democracy in Nicaragua. The contras must be given the opening they need to join in the democratization process.

This is the goal we have set. That is how we regard, and that is how I regard the effort we must make. You were all pessimistic about this meeting, just as was the case with Esquipulas II in Guatemala, where you said we would not reach any agreement at all and that the meeting would fail; and you said we had very different points of view. At that time, everyone was surprised when we signed the Esquipulas II agreements.

When we were on our way to Costa Rica, everyone said there were pressures; everyone said that this is the end of Esquipulas II; everyone said there is no hope for peace in Central America. Stop that! Here the five Central American presidents have reached agreements, and we have reached agreements on issues that strengthen Esquipulas II. We have agreed on the roads leading toward peace. That is why I am optimistic. If El Salvador and Nicaragua comply with the agreements, we will have an opportunity for peace, and the rest of the world will see how there can be a political solution to the problems and conflicts in Central America. We are making history and this is extremely important. That is why I am pleased to see that this document fully supports the Esquipulas II agreements; that this document has clearly stated that there should be no insinuations or pretexts to avoid doing what must be done—that a total amnesty should be granted, that a complete democracy must be observed, and that freedom of speech should be allowed so all peoples can express themselves freely. These are the important things we have agreed on today, and, most of all, we have agreed to strengthen Esquipulas II.

Gentlemen, if you ask the question: Will there be more presidential meetings? Of course there will be. We will meet to talk about all the issues. There is one thing about which there are no doubts: The Central American presidents are the true leaders of Central America. The Central American presidents have said that we and no one else must face this historic challenge; we will not allow others to impose solutions, take away our rights, or violate our sovereignty. That is what Esquipulas II states, and that is what today's document states.

Gentlemen, I believe this is a great and extremely important event. Maybe we will find some obstacles along the way, and maybe some things will not be fulfilled along the way. What I said on the first occasion I will repeat now, and as I mentioned to the presidents:

I have signed my name once again; I have left my signature on the document. When I sign, I am meeting my obligation; however, while I meet my obligation, I make demands. Thus, the peoples of the world and the Central American people must know that I will denounce he who does not meet his obligations, and I will do it publicly. I believe the salvation of our peoples lies here, and I will not abandon the fight for democracy in Central America.

[Reporter] Do you believe that under the agreements you have signed here today the U.S. Congress should now forever suspend all aid to the contras? Are you willing to renew talks with the Salvadoran guerrillas?

[Duarte] I did not understand your second question, but I will answer your first question and then you may repeat your second question.

The signing of this document should tell you that we will fulfill the agreements. If we fulfill the agreements, then what we stated in the document is valid, especially when we say that the governments of the five Central American countries will request all regional and foreign governments—Cuba, Russia, or the United States—which openly or secretly give military, logistic, and financial aid and distribute propaganda, cash, weapons, ammunition, and equipment to irregular or rebel forces to suspend that aid as a basic element for achieving a lasting and stable peace in the region. In these last 150 days we have seen that many things have not been fulfilled.

Therefore, we have had to be self-critical and indicate what we have not complied with. It has been very hard, because we have been forced to talk to each other in a frank and harsh manner. I have had to present my viewpoints, and I have listened to others, and we have had our confrontations.

However, at the end—and despite my skepticism—it has been recorded, and it reads that we have reservations with regard to some aspects. I feel that despite all that skepticism this document commits everyone to compliance.

I feel that if Nicaragua complies with all of this there is no need for the contras. There would then be democracy in Nicaragua and the doors would be opened for the people to exercise their freedom. This also holds true for El Salvador. That is why I fear these measures Nicaragua is proposing now, and which I accept as a good sign of principles, do not meet the requirements. Law No 33 does not include thousands of people.

Second, it makes amnesty and the cease-fire contingent upon the return of all the armed rebels; that is, until the contras are eliminated.

Third, it sends all of them into exile. I think that, at this time, this scenario is not fully in the spirit of Esquipulas II. I am saying that I accept it as a first step because I think that we cannot ask more of President Ortega. I think that he has done a lot. He came to this meeting and committed himself to do things. Undoubtedly, it is up to him to comply so that the support to the contras will end.

It is now up to President Ortega to comply and thus to determine whether or not aid to the contras will be approved. We have said: If you comply, we will be the guarantors before the world that you are complying and are opening the doors to democracy. That is what I can tell you concerning the aid.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President. Allow me to ask you more about this issue. Does this mean that if perhaps Nicaragua does not comply, then you would be willing to support more aid for the contras?

[Duarte] No, sir. I have never supported aid for the contras. I have never said a single word in favor or against the contras. I am going to speak very clearly, and I will tell you why I feel that way. I cannot advocate any rebel action in any other country. First, out of principle, and second, because I have guerrillas in El Salvador. Obviously, if I rationalize the presence of guerrillas others can also rationalize the presence of other guerrillas.

Thus, I want it to be clearly known that I have never allowed meetings to be held in my territory to destabilize other nations. Second, I do not believe in supporting rebel actions because this sets me up for others doing the same to me. This has happened to other countries that tried through diplomacy to give the Salvadoran guerrillas the status of a warring faction. That is my stand on this.

[Reporter] Allow me one more question: Would you be willing to hold another dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrillas?

[Duarte] In complying with Esquipulas II, to forgive and forget and nonviolence are the two philosophical concepts that I proposed to them at the Nunciature, and which they rejected. According to Esquipulas II, none of the rebels have the right to demand power on the basis of violence. According to Esquipulas II, those who agree to join the democratic process and who lay down their arms can then rejoin society. I am willing to pursue that, all within the framework of El Salvador's political Constitution.

That is why I have held so many dialogues with the guerrillas. The day they tell me they are willing to abide by nonviolence, the day they tell me they reject violence as an instrument for assuming power, the day they tell me they are willing to forgive and forget—as I have done with the kidnappers of my daughter who were sitting in front of me at the Nunciature when I told them: I forgive

you—as long as we do not have the spirit of forgiveness, then all efforts to sit down and hold a dialogue is for the purpose of discussing what? Power; power through arms.

They believe that the fact that they have risen up in arms gives them the right to power, but neither my people nor I accept this. Power belongs to the people, and the people deliver power through their will. The will of the people is expressed in the elections. I am turning power over through the elections. I believe that answers your question.

[Moderator] As there is still some time left, we will accept one more question.

[Duarte] I have to catch a plane tonight, so I will only have time for one more question.

[Morales] Thank you, Mr President. My name is Manuel Edilio Morales, Channel 6, San Jose. I will ask a brief question: Are you willing to accept an on-site inspection in your country? Do you feel that the Contadora and Support Groups are capable of carrying out this verification?

[Duarte] We have agreed that the Executive Commission will be the one that will establish the guidelines for this verification. I personally have no objections. General Vides Casanova is here with me and he told this to the ad hoc commission that visited the country. The commission was told of the existence of a radio station, Radio Liberacion. When they brought this up before Gen Vides Casanova, he immediately said: I am ready; let's go. How many of you are coming? Get into the car and we will go find out whether or not this is true.

Some said that the planes that supplied the Nicaraguan contras were taking off from our military airfields. This is not true. But if they want to verify this, I am willing to go with them right this minute. There are no planes leaving from our airfields.

Others have said that there were guerrilla training centers in El Salvador. This is not true. I invite you to visit the country and see for yourselves that we do not have a single Nicaraguan guerrilla in the country.

However, we have presented 80 charges regarding Nicaraguan intervention in the domestic affairs of our country. I hope that once we fulfill all that is established in this document, Nicaragua will correct its mistakes.

A few minutes ago, I told Daniel Ortega—he was insisting that the only way to resolve the problem was through the establishment of a Verification Center—that the real issue was whether or not we intended to abide by the document. If I want to abide by the document, if I want to make sure that not a single soldier, radio station, or plane in my country is being used to destabilize Nicaragua, then all the verification commission can do is report on whether or not I am doing this. But, if I want to hide something, if I want to hide the soldiers, the radio stations, and the men who are being trained, it would be very difficult for a commission to find a sign of this deception. I could be moving them all around the country; no one would find a trace of this deception.

What is important is to know and to tell the truth. This is why I told Daniel Ortega that I kept, and continue to keep, my promise. I believe in what I promised. I did not make the promise today; I made it the day I was sworn in. On that day I told the world that I would not allow my country to be used to destabilize Nicaragua, and that I would not support any destabilizing actions against Nicaragua.

However, I demanded the same for El Salvador; I asked that we be left to live in peace. I said this the day I was sworn in and I uphold it today. If Nicaragua abides by its promise then I will know that we are all telling the truth and that the verification commission will merely ascertain that we are all telling the truth.

However, to create a verification commission to follow our heels and check up on what we do and say—Look, they are not doing this thing right; fix it up; do that. To have policemen behind our backs is an insult. This would mean that the presidents are liars or crooks. I do not believe that the Central American presidents are liars or crooks. This is why I feel that it is much more important to respect a word given than to have others taking pictures to make sure that we are doing what we have to do, about whether or not a plane is taking off. This is how I feel, but it is not up to me to decide.

My policy is an open policy. Don't you think that all the reporters we have in El Salvador would have spotted a training center if we had one? The reporters were the ones who located the house Hasenfus was using. They took pictures of the house and the antenna. I believe that a Salvadoran television crew got the list of all the telephone calls made from that house. They even found out that some of the calls were to the White House. Today's reporters are not just reporters—they are investigators. This is the best guarantee for telling the truth. I am not afraid of them. I am not afraid of any investigation they may initiate. I believe in the truth. That is my answer.

Gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity to answer your questions. Thank you. My best wishes to the people of Costa Rica. [applause]

Guatemala's Cerezo Holds News Conference

PA180132 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2311 GMT 16 Jan 88

[News conference by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo following conclusion of the Central American Presidential Summit with international journalists held at the Central American Institute of Business Administration in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] [Cerezo] Dear friends, good afternoon. I would like to talk to you very briefly about something you have surely witnessed. This has been a difficult and interesting

meeting. I would say it was an example of how the protagonists of the Central American drama, the main leaders of the Central American nations, have undertaken—with absolute realism, objectivity, and concern for the region's peace—a political discussion at a high level, but one intimately linked to the reality of each of our countries.

Today, I want to acknowledge the interest, attitude, and efforts made by the Central American presidents to succeed in effectively conjoining two of the facts and phenomena that are becoming perhaps the most important historical part of this process. The first one is the fact that we Central Americans are in fact becoming the most important arbiters of our nations' historical destiny. The second one is the overt manifestation, corroborated by the actions of the Central American presidents, of a serious and deep interest in achieving peace through political mechanisms and cooperation. This is what I wanted to say before taking any questions you may have.

[Castejon] Fernanda Castejon from GHBC [not further identified]. President Cerezo, it has been unofficially reported that the Nicaraguan President will hold a dialogue with that country's counterrevolutionaries. It has also been reported that you are going to hold a dialogue with the Guatemalan guerrilla leaders. I would like you to tell me if this is true and, if so, when will this take place? If President Ortega has yielded and has agreed to hold a dialogue with the contras, what measures will you adopt to attain a cease-fire in Guatemala, where the war has expanded a great deal during the last few months?

[Cerezo] In the first place, regarding President Ortega's decision, we have in fact learned of his willingness to hold these direct talks with the rebel forces in the interior of his country. This is something President Ortega reports to you officially. If they are indeed held, this will be one of the actions that will effectively demonstrate that the commitment undertaken today will begin to be realized.

With regard to Guatemala, I must first say that the war has not expanded in any way. This is something I must clarify for you. In Guatemala there are normal security actions and small, occasional acts of harassment. There is no specific battlefront, and you may feel completely free to go there and verify this.

However, the procedure we have set is the one established in the Esquipulas agreements: expression of a willingness to participate in the political process, amnesty, and immediate steps taken by the Reconciliation Commission to establish the mechanisms to enable the guerrillas to join the political process and to establish the conditions necessary for their safety. We will later be able to invite them to participate in a dialogue with all opposition groups and political parties.

[(Pavose)] (Jorge Pavose) of Costa Rica's Channel 13. The refugees and displaced persons problem in the various Central American countries is widely known. We have 32,000 in Costa Rica alone. There are 40,000 in Honduras, and there is a large number of Guatemalans in Mexico. What measures have been adopted for an eventual repatriation of these people to their native countries?

[Cerezo] This has been a topic of special interest and concern to the presidents. All of us have been affected by violence in Central America. In Guatemala's case, we have reached an agreement with the Mexican Government to carry out a plan for the return of the refugees. This would be based on their expressed willingness to return, free from any conditions imposed by Guatemala, to their places of origin, rather than being based on any expressed desire to legally participate in the process.

However, we have also decided to begin talks and work out agreements to create a Central American Refugee Commission [Comision Centroamericana de Refugiados]. To do so, we are considering the possibility of holding a meeting in some Central American country and of asking the international community for cooperation to address the humanitarian issue of the refugees' return to their native countries or their continued existence elsewhere.

We understand this problem and start with the basic premise that all talks to end hostilities in any given country and to create conditions for political participation necessarily imply opening the borders for an unconditional return of the nationals of each country.

[(Cortina])] (Maria Cortina) of Radio Programas [word indistinct]. Good afternoon, Mr President. It was rumored that some of the presidents did not fully agree with the report submitted by the CIVS [International Verification and Follow-Up Commission] and even characterized it as biased. Does the fact that the CIVS has not joined the verification process this time attest to this?

[Cerezo] Look, the CIVS report was analyzed and discussed the way we now discuss things in Central America. Using this style, we have broken the traditional diplomatic mold. We are discussing policies and concrete problems. In some cases, some parts of the CIVS reports were discussed and some reservations were raised. However, the final report was accepted by all of the presidents, and we have pointedly expressed thanks for their participation.

We decided to work in accordance with the Esquipulas agreement, and, according to Esquipulas, the CIVS as such has completed its activity. However, from now on we can turn again to the same countries, to other organizations, and to other countries to ask for them to intervene for the purpose of verifying compliance with the agreements we ratified today.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct]

[First reporter] Mr President, in a few days—on 4 February—the U.S. Congress will be voting on whether or not to approve funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. I would like to know what impact you think the document you just signed will have on the U.S. congressmen's decision? Thank you.

[Cerezo] For many years I have tried to predict what impact the attitudes of Central Americans may have in the United States, and I want to tell you that I have failed. Therefore, I would not dare. [Cerezo laughs] However, what is indeed true is that we have clearly set forth our position regarding the process. We insist on political measures to solve our problems, and we would like to find a mechanism to achieve peace, always providing that democracy is consolidated.

Today's declaration passes the responsibility on to the United States. They are the ones who have to make the decision, and we hope it will be in keeping with the agreements we have adopted today.

[Morales] Manuel Morales from Noti 6. Mr President, I would like to insist a bit on the CIVS issue, because I think there is a contradiction in your last statements.

Your statements acknowledge the work done by the CIVS; however, the declaration of the five Central American presidents is somewhat ambiguous, because when it refers to verification, it passes on—so to speak—the responsibility to the foreign ministers and, moreover, it mentions seeking countries and other trustworthy entities. There is talk of other countries, including extraregional countries. Could this be interpreted as a lack of confidence in groups such as the Contadora and Support Groups?

[Cerezo] Definitely not. There is confidence in those who have participated in the Contadora and Support Groups. Of course, the attitude of the presidents has historically shown that we can also trust the Executive Commission. When we talk about other countries, this does not represent an exclusionary reference, and it is good you have pointed this out. In the long discussion about the wording, perhaps we passed up this detail. No exclusion was made of those other Latin American countries, which laid the groundwork for an initial step to make us the arbiters of our own destiny. On the contrary, they will be taken into consideration, and that is the reason for mentioning regional and extraregional countries and organizations, which will participate with us in the technical verification of a number of matters that must be checked. However, there is an important aspect: The declaration shows the persistence and determination of Central Americans to devise their own solutions.

[Second reporter] It seems that the CIVS has been a topic that has received much attention from newsmen. You said that the five Central American presidents accepted this document in its revised form. There is talk now [words indistinct] of creating an exclusively regional commission to verify this work and to follow up and investigate the implementation of the agreements reached. We would like to know your opinion on this report drafted by the CIVS.

[Cerezo] We already gave our opinion on this report. We accepted the final report. There is still a final report pending, and which must be presented to the presidents and which will be disclosed in full detail.

We expressed our opinion jointly here. We said two specific things: there were some reservations, but, on the whole, we recognize that the commission did an efficient and adequate job at the present stage.

Particularly, regarding Guatemala, we consider the report adequate. We expressed reservations on the extent of some parts of the report regarding activities that we did not consider in the commission's purview. But the report, as a whole, is acceptable. It recognizes, as we recognize in the declaration, that we were unable to comply with 100 percent of its terms, but that we have the desire to move forward, and that we expect that its fulfillment will guarantee that the agreement will be effective as a function of the peace process and the fulfillment of the commitments.

[Third reporter] After today's meeting, what do you feel are the greatest obstacles on the path toward peace in Central America?

[Cerezo] The obstacle for peace is compliance with the pending agreements. If we comply with the pending agreements, we will clearly know what external factors are affecting the Central American governments. This will allow us to demand from those who are intervening in this process—going against the will of the Central American presidents—to stop that intervention.

[Third reporter] [Words indistinct] the climate yesterday was one of rejection and recrimination among the presidents. It was also said that you and President Arias played important roles as moderators in reaching today's agreement. Could you explain to us the kind of participation and the moderating role you and President Arias had in reaching today's agreement?

[Cerezo] I would say that yesterday's climate [words indistinct] among political leaders who (?took) stands they are convinced of. Each took their own stand. Each president's role was a role in line with his attitude toward complying with the agreements.

One of the presidents would be mediator at a certain time, and we all played that role at one time or another. The truth is that all the presidents should be commended. Despite rumors that circulated [words indistinct] the meetings, the presidents showed that they wanted to be promoters of peace. This is what is most important about today's meeting.

[Fourth reporter] I am from TBC, Radio Canada. Three of the Central American presidents had harshly criticized Nicaragua before the summit for its alleged noncompliance with the Esquipulas agreements. You did not have the opportunity to voice your opinion to us on this issue, and I would like to know if you feel that Nicaragua's attitude has been the greatest obstacle regarding the Esquipulas peace process. How do you view the United States' role in this issue and how did you discuss this role during the meetings?

[Cerezo] I agree with the declaration. None of us wished to comply with everything. Some complied more and others less because of their particular circumstances. We stated here in detail that we primarily insisted on the democratization process and on a search for an end to hostilities in each of the countries. Therefore, I cannot accuse any one country of being the most important obstacle. I would say that the most important aspect of the meeting is that we all want to resolve the big or small problems that we may have in each country.

Regarding the United States, allow me to repeat what I said at the United Nations: The United States must read the agreement and respect it.

[Alvarez] I am Eligio Alvarez Montalban from Radio Sandino, Managua, Nicaragua. Although what you said in your introduction is true—that this agreement is a result of a Central American political development—it is no less true that the United States is somehow influencing the Latin American countries in one way or another, on a small or a large scale. Therefore, although you already mentioned what the U.S. attitude would be with regard to either the negative or positive implications that this agreement may have for U.S. interests, I would like to ask you whether this is in fact the first time that Latin America dares to do something as big as this, disregarding U.S. interests, [words indistinct], and pressures.

[Cerezo] I respect your opinion. [Cerezo laughs] I must also tell you that it is true that I am very proud to participate in a meeting in which the presidents are advancing toward creating their own destiny. Undoubtedly, the United States and other large Latin American Nations and countries in the world exert an influence on Central American problems. We wish we could increasingly move toward strengthening our participation and decreasing the influence of other countries in our affairs. I am saying this based on the fact that Central American unity is a specific requirement to reach that goal.

Gentlemen, since there are other presidents who must certainly want to express their views [words indistinct]—thank you for attending this meeting. [applause]

Cuba

USSR's Kamentsev Visits Cienfuegos Projects

FL190350 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0313 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived today in Cienfuegos. He will visit centers of national importance currently under construction. The high-level Soviet official and the delegation accompanying him will tour the nuclear power plant and the oil refinery being built in Cienfuegos with the cooperation of the USSR. Kamentsev, who is also chairman of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation, arrived in our country at the invitation of the Council of State. During his stay in Cuba, the high-ranking Soviet official will visit centers related to economy, science, and technology, among others.

Tours Nickel Industry Areas

FL191544 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and president of the Cuban-Soviet Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation yesterday made an in-depth tour through areas of the investment program for the industrial and social development of the nickel industry.

He visited Quemado del Negro where a second nickel plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons is under construction. It is being built with Soviet cooperation and other CEMA-member countries.

The delegation also toured the Punta Gorda nickel plant, as well as the industrial installations of the Comandante Pedro Soto Alba and the (Gustavo Machin) mechanical combine. They also visited the Coloradas social and housing development area, specifically the area where housing is being constructed for CEMA technicians who will participate in the development of the Camariocas.

Possibility Still Exists for Olympics in DPRK

FL191600 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the International Olympic Committee, said in Lausanne that the door is not yet definitely closed to Pyongyang's participation in the summer Olympics.

Samaranch gave a news conference during which he said he hopes the situation will advance favorably within the next few weeks. He said if the DPRK decides to participate in the Olympics, the organization he heads is willing to examine the possibilities.

Commentary Responds

FL200236 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Commentary by Alberto Salazar from the National Information Agency: "Open Doors or Ultimatum?"]

[Text] Recent statements made by Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee [COI], indicating that the COI and the organizing committee for the next Olympics are leaving an open door for the DPRK and other countries—Cuba among them—so that they can participate in the games, are missing the core of the problem. As one can recall, the sports authorities and the North Korean Government have made persistent requests so that this summer Olympic games are held jointly by Seoul and Pyongyang.

The way the competition schedule is made up does not contribute in any way to the peaceful climate in the region or, even less, to the desirable cause of the Korean reunification. The open doors now offered to North Korea are an ultimatum rather than a sincere attitude which would encourage its participation. The meager conditions for the co-hosting of the games, which have been repeatedly rejected by Pyongyang, have been maintained. They are the organization of three complete sports categories: archery, table tennis, and women's volleyball in addition to a cycling event and a group of football finals.

In his commentary, Alberto Salazar adds: An in-depth analysis is unnecessary to realize that, as it is, the level of North Korea's participation is quite poor. This is especially true because the sports categories involved are not as interesting to fans as many others which will be held in Seoul. In other words, the doors continue to be as closed as they were in the beginning, since the XXIV Olympic games organizing committee has not given an inch to the repeated and just claims of the DPRK. This is speaking strictly in technical terms but there are moral underlying issues. One must add, in a broader analysis, the heart of the problem is having entrusted the hosting of the Olympics to a portion of a divided country. Worst of all, it is a country where there is a political and social situation incompatible with the climate of peace and security required to hold such an event. The recent popular demonstrations in South Korea, with their pitiful number of arrests, injuries, and deaths do not necessarily provide a warm welcome for athletes from all over the world, youth whose aspirations are far away from the situation existing there.

Alberto Salazar continues in his commentary: The close-knit military bases scattered around that area of Korea do not necessarily improve a country's qualifications for hosting the Olympics. Nor does the obstinacy of the organizing committee of the XXIV Olympic Games help to open the doors and facilitate North Korean participation and that of other countries showing solidarity with their position.

With regards to Cuba, its position is clear. It is firm in its support offered from the beginning to our Korean brothers. The Olympic committee and the Cuban Government maintain their position of principles and will not sacrifice them unless a gesture of truly good faith and understanding opens the doors. With obvious evil intentions, the capitalistic press agencies insist that the absent athletes will be the ones to be greatly hurt. They forget our athletes consciously share the idea of one of the phrases written by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to the COI president: The moral principles of the people are more important than the excitement of the Olympic Games and medals.

Malmierca Continues Latin American Tour

Agenda in Uruguay

FL181432 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today begins an official visit to Uruguay. During his stay in this country, Malmierca will have a busy agenda which includes a meeting with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and talks with his Uruguayan counterpart, Enrique Iglesias. Other activities in Montevideo are two ceremonies to honor heroes Jose Artigas, at Independence Square, and Jose Marti, at Cuba Square. Malmierca will also visit the offices of the Latin American Integration Association and hold a news conference at the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo.

Comrade Malmierca's visit to Uruguay is the second leg of a Latin American tour which began in Panama and will also take in Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico.

Comments on Central America

FL191500 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said in Panama that Cuba is willing to do whatever is necessary to achieve peace in Central America. However, he said, the United States is the principal obstacle to this goal.

In addition to offering our solidarity to those who seek peace, he said, the hostile attitude of the United States must be denounced. The United States has maintained a policy of open interference in the region, including aggression against Nicaragua, said the Cuban foreign minister at the conclusion of an official 3-day visit to Panama.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, previously met with the Cuban foreign minister. Defense Forces sources said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

While in Panama, Malmierca also met with his counterpart Jorge Abadia Arias and President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

PCC Official in New Delhi for Seminar

FL131926 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1527 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Melba Hernandez, PCC Central Committee member, arrived yesterday in New Delhi, India, to participate in a 3-day international seminar on Asia and the Pacific. The meeting will begin on 17 January in the Indian capital. Distinguished personalities from various countries will meet there to analyze the present problems in these regions.

Hernandez, who is also the Asian and Oceania Studies Center Director of the PCC Central Committee, was welcomed at the New Delhi airport by Sonia Diaz, Cuban ambassador to India, as well as other Cuban diplomatic mission officials.

Government Discusses Foreign Debt With West

FL190035 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] A National Bank of Cuba delegation held talks today in Paris with a group of creditor countries to discuss its foreign debt situation. The Cuban delegation is headed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, who told PRENSA LATINA that the parties had agreed not to publish the specific topics discussed or the agreements reached. Cuba's debt with Western countries amounts to $5 billion.

Computer, Automation Commission Created

FL191526 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] [Words indistinct] the electronic front in our country for the purpose of developing a cohesive policy on electronics and information.

Havana Province does not have the skills to cover the needs for electronic components even though it has three factories which produce electrical and telephone cables, metal parts for computer equipment, and keyboards.

In addition to research, the commission now created in Havana is responsible for introducing industrial computer and automation technology. It will also encourage production enterprises to fulfill their plans and will organize advanced courses for its development.

Haiti

Post-Elections Confusion, 'Irregularities'

FL192129 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Thirty-seven hours after the polls closed in Sunday's elections—elections organized by the Haitian authorities and called a masquerade by the entire world—nothing is yet clear. Haiti's authorities are in a bind. They don't know exactly what results to release and what to suppress. And Mr Jean Gilbert, president of the CNG's [National Government Council] CEP [Provisional Electoral Council], has only complicated the matter further by exhibiting an excess of zeal. He has shown himself to be more pro-monarchy than the monarch himself.

Mr Gilbert has put the CNG in the same position as Roger Lafontant put the Duvalier regime in 1985 by publishing figures not even remotely close to reality. Many people have said they had expected to hear lies but had not expected Jean Gilbert to go that far. Mr Jean Gilbert denied all the Haitian statistical figures. For this reason, many people say they would not be surprised if one of these days Mr Gilbert were to go on national television or radio to declare that Cap-Haitien is no longer in the north, or that Jacmel is in the Grande Anse, or to inform all Haitians that 10 percent is of greater value than 90 percent.

This situation is clearly evident today. There is total confusion and irregularities all over the place.

The election organizers have been visibly frightened. Many people say that after the denunciations of fraud in favor of a candidate, it looks as if the government is trying to favor a different candidate. But many people's reaction to this is that the point is not who wins; that what is clear is that Sunday's elections are no good and a masquerade, and that the choice of candidate to be declared victorious changes nothing.

Also, foreign governments cannot say they are not aware of what happened Sunday because their nations' press, their nations' observers, and the press in Haiti are all clear on this matter.

These governments have repeatedly said the Haitian people must decide for themselves. But are the Haitian people the ones making the decision to send weapons to crush these same people? Are the Haitian people the ones making the decision when they approve the government's actions?

Today, the representatives of those governments sitting in Haiti, who saw what happened, should shoulder their responsibilities and say clearly what all journalists and observers have already denounced. They must stop rendering themselves accomplices to crimes and evil actions that they are well aware of.

The American, Canadian, and French people love their own citizens back home. We noticed this during the Vietnam war, when American families threw up their hands in horror. We noticed this when American Marines were massacred in Lebanon. The American people, American families, were horrified. Therefore, one cannot understand how a country's administration can continue to make itself an accomplice to crimes and actions being committed and carried out in a small country.

They continue to say it is up to the people to say no. They have already said this—that it is up to the people to say that no, they do not want Sunday's elections. Should the Haitian people express this through carnage, by shooting? Haven't the Haitian people already said it clearly? Didn't they say it on 29 March, through the way they ratified the Constitution of 1987? Have the Haitian people not died enough to make this clear yet?—Haitian people who died in front of Fort Dimanche, Martissant, Cap-Haitien, Les Cayes, Gonaives, Saint-Marc, and all over the country? Did the Haitian people not speak clearly on 16 January 1988 by respecting the call for a general strike? Did they not again say, on 17 January, without any intimidation and without a single shot being fired, that they did not want the 17 January elections?

Isn't this the best way for someone to say he does not want something? Do they want another El Salvador, Lebanon, or Nicaragua in Haiti? Is that what they are seeking to get the Haitian people to do?

The Haitian people have always said they wish to seek democracy through peaceful means. It is through peaceful means that they wish to attain democracy. Do they want to push the Haitian people over the brink?

Groups Declare 17 Jan Elections Null, Void

CED Declaration

FL192215 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Excerpts of "Declaration" issued by the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED]; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The 17 January 1988 elections were a true failure. [passage omitted]

Participation in the so-called general elections of 17 January was approximately 2 to 2 and 1/2 percent. [passage omitted]

The Haitian authorities and the people supporting them are pretending that they do not know that from 7 February 1986 to today something important has changed in Haiti.

The Haitian people are demanding change. They are demanding democracy, security, and development. The success of the big 16 January 1988 strike and the high abstention from the electoral sham of 17 January proves this clearly. No one can claim they did not notice.

There is no longer any doubt. In the CED, buttressed by the civilian society, lies the only hope of the great majority of the Haitian people, who know that the triumph of the struggle for change and democracy must of necessity entail the strengthening and broadening of their unity.

Merchants, industrialists, workers, professionals, students, peasants, and the unemployed: the present moment is serious, a moment at which important decisions must be made. Our unity and mobilization are important for Haiti to be able to change directions, to take the right path.

The CED (?continues): We, the leaders of the MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti]; the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party]; the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party]; and the FNC, the National Concerted Action Front, demand that the 17 January 1988 elections be annulled. We declare them null and void and without any effect whatsoever.

We forcefully reiterate to Haiti and to the international public our staunch determination to struggle to the end with the Haitian people, for the triumph of the valid demands they have been making for so long: a more just society; a peaceful society; a rule of law, where might does not make right; and a prosperous, sovereign and independent society, according to the Constitution of 29 March 1987.

The declaration is signed by Marc L. Bazin for MIDH, Mr Millery for PAIN, Sylvio Claude for PDCH, and Mr Gerard Gourgue for the FNC.

Movement Declaration

FL192244 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Excerpts of "Declaration" issued by the United Movement in Favor of Respect for the Constitution [Mouvman Tet Ansanm Pou Hone-Respe Konstitisyon an] on 18 January]

[Excerpts] In the declaration made by the movement on 1 January 1988, we declared the elections of 17 January 1988 would be invalid. Today, 18 January 1988, after the electoral masquerade they just held, which we went through yesterday, we again declare that these heavy-handed elections are invalid, and do not represent the will of the majority of the people.

Why? Because on 29 March 1987, the people en masse ratified the Constitution they wanted. The Constitution says how everything should be done in the county and how elections should be organized.

On 29 November 1987, the same Haitian people who ratified the Constitution, despite all the intimidation before the elections, went out into the streets to choose their leaders. [passage omitted]

From that moment on, the provisional CNG [National Government Council] took steps to give us the government it had decided to give us a long time ago. It formed its own CEP [Provisional Electoral Council]; wrote its own electoral law; and sowed fear everywhere, especially in the rural areas, so it could stuff the candidates it wanted down the throats of the Haitian people. All this constitutes, so to speak, "counting well, but calculating wrong". Our courageous people were not intimidated.

On Saturday 16 January, they showed clearly—both to those here and those abroad—that they do not want fraudulent elections in violation of the Constitution. The entire country came to a halt. On Sunday 17 January, the Haitian people stayed home in order not to get involved with any dubious elections. [passage omitted]

We today reiterate that those elections are null and void. We ask all countries with any respect for the Haitian people and for their own onstitutions to refuse to recognize the 17 January masquerade.

We ask the Haitian people to continue waging the battle to have their Constitution respected so the democracy they want can be established in Haiti.

United Movement in Favor of Respect for the Constitution.

[Signed:] Ernst Malebranche, attorney; Mr Antoine Izmery; Jean-Jacques Honorat, agronomist; Dr (Daniel Anrisse); Rev Father Antoine Adrien; Rev (Pauris Jean-Baptiste).

Theagene Approves of 17 Jan Election Boycott

FL192259 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Jean L.Theagene thinks the democratic sector was right to boycott the 17 January elections, which the authorities fixed in favor of Leslie Manigat.

According to Theagene, members of the Armed Forces stationed in Ennery, in the northern Artibonite, tore up his ballots, in order to pave the way for Leslie Manigat. Theagene termed the [17 January] elections official elections and said very few people participated.

Commenting on the statement made by attorney Jean Gilbert, who said at least 2 million Haitians voted, Mr Theagene said the president of the CNG's [National Government Council] CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] must be trying to make a fool out of the Haitian people.

Regarding the constitutional CEP that the CNG disbanded, although candidate Theagene had applauded what happened on 29 November, today he admits the reasons the government gave for dismissing the constitutional CEP were not valid and that leader Marc Bazin had been right in saying after 29 November that if the CEP had done something improper, it was up to the candidates themselves to protest but that the government did not have a right to fire the CEP.

Those were statements made by Theagene over Radio Haiti [-Inter].

Jamaica

Seaga To Decide Stance After Haitian Vote

FL160109 Bridgetown CANA in English 0015 GMT 16 Jan 88

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 15, CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga, deserted by his Caribbean colleagues, maintained Friday night that Jamaica would wait until after Sunday's elections in Haiti to decide on a position towards the new government there.

In a combative statement, Seaga chided those Caribbean states which had recognised the tyrannical Duvalier regime now say they will not recognise the government to be elected Sunday albeit under less than perfect conditions...(but) which at the beginning of its term has no tyrannical record nor any declared intent to establish itself as a dictatorship.

Said Seaga: there is plenty of time to assess all these things after an election is held and decide, when the facts are known, whether the new government is worthy of support, not recognition.

The position of the government of Jamaica is that while we are anxious to assist Haiti to come out of the cold, we could not assuredly extend our desire to the point of supporting as distinct from recognising, a government elected under conditions which are not reasonably credible and giving power to an elected candidate now worthy of support, as we have repeatedly maintained.

We maintain that this position can only be taken after the electoral events and after the facts are known, the Jamaican leader said. In order for us to arrive at a position on a totally credible basis, facts must be gathered by observation at first hand and not from press reports and hearsay.

Seaga Thursday sent his education minister and Haiti expert, Dr Neville Gallimore, to Port-au-Prince for the poll—the second attempt at elections there in less than two months.

Seaga said Jamaica would not join other nations large or small who were washing their hands of Haiti and walking away either because the situation is unpredictable, objectionable, or intolerable to their way of thinking or because it is currently fashionable to do so.

To follow that course, he said, would be to be part of the problem rather than the solution. He said Jamaica was accustomed to standing alone or in the company of relatively few nations on regional or world issues.

He cited the 1950's when only Jamaica and India imposed trade sanctions against South Africa, adding: We had to do so regionally in 1961 when Jamaica took a position contrary to that of all the other member states of the then West Indies Federation, ultimately withdrawing from that organisation.

We did so more recently when we participated in the United States-led rescue mission to Grenada along with other Caribbean states acting to keep consitutional and international treaty prerequistes to free the people of Grenada from dictatorship and to restore democracy in that beleagured country. [passage indistinct]

Gallimore Acts as Special Emissary to Haiti

Haitians Comment

FL181755 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jan 88

[All passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Three prominent politicians in Haiti of different political persuasion have publicly denounced the presence of Jamaica's special emissary to the elections, Dr Neville Gallimore, in Port-au-Prince for yesterday's polling. Mr Alphonse Lahens, a known Duvalierist who was banned, then reinstated to the elections, issued a statement on Radio Metropole and Radio Nationale yesterday. Sylvio Claude, a member of the 4-party opposition alliance, and Mr Gregoire Eugene, one of yesterday's candidates, (?said) on the radio that Dr Gallimore was sent to Port-au-Prince to try to influence the voting yesterday in favor of Mr Leslie Manigat. They did not say how this would be done. Mr Manigat has denied any connection with Dr Gallimore's presence. On his departure from Jamaica last Thursday, Dr Gallimore said he was going to Haiti to observe the elections.

[Gallimore] "I'm actually going leading a delegation from the group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders. I'm merely the representative of that group there. And we are not going [words indistinct]. We cannot say what the outcome will be. We will be there to see."

Dr Gallimore also said the elections were not rigged in an interview with Canaradio.

[Gallimore] "I would say it's different to what we are accustomed to in the Anglo-Saxon world in that we [words indistinct] they do it openly. So far, I see no effort from anyone to rig the elections in favor of anyone."

However, a reporter in Port-au-Prince says the elections appear to have been rigged in favor of Mr Manigat.

[First speaker] "What are those reports indicating the poll has been rigged in favor of Army (?friend) Leslie Manigat?

[Second speaker] "Everything seems to indicate that that appreciation is correct. Manigat seems to be the (?person) that will be selected by the Army. We have information that tells us that Manigat negotiated with the Army and the Duvalierists all throughout the month of September. The picture that (?we are getting) is that there was a deal between Manigat and the Army to share power.

[First speaker] "And any idea yet when the (?head) of the government will give the official word on the new president?

[Second speaker] "The Haitian Government says that by Sunday they will announce the winner. It takes that long because I feel that there are more manipulations intended. As you know, this is not an elections; this is a selection."

That was the reporter from Port-au-Prince. Haitians are now waiting on the results of the poll.

Gallimore Offers Support

FL182101 Bridgetown CANA in English 2010 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 18, CANA—Jamaica will offer Haiti any assistance it needs, regardless of who emerges president from Sunday's elections, according to Neville Gallimore, the Jamaican emissary who observed the poll.

Jamaica has no axe to grind and we just want to see the Haitian people enter into democracy, the GLEANER newspaper quoted Gallimore as saying in an interview from Port-au-Prince Sunday.

Anything that Jamaica can do, if we can offer technical assistance in any field, I am sure that we will be willing to do this because we see Haiti as a part of the Caribbean family, Gallimore said.

Gallimore, who also represented Prime Minister Edward Seaga in the derailed elections on November 29 last year, defended Seaga's support of Haiti as nonpartisan and only interested in restoring the country to democracy.

We are not trying to influence Haiti unduly; but we figure that if we can encourage Haiti on a truly democratic path, it will be for the benefit of the Haitian people, Gallimore said.

Gallimore, who said that in his visit for yesterday's election he had met with candidates and business people from all the sectors of the society, declared, one thing the prime minister (Seaga) insisted from the first time he sent me here...he said now we are there to be honest brokers and we must not seem to be partisan or take any sides with any candidate.

Gallimore Assesses Poll

FL182315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au—Prince, Haiti, Jan 18, CANA—Jamaican emissary Dr Neville Gallimore, who observed controversial presidential and general elections here on Sunday, expressed some satisfaction with the conduct of the poll.

"So far I have seen no efforts...to rig the election in favour of anyone and it will be interesting to see what the results will turn out to be later on," Gallimore told CANARADIO. People were canvassing, but no authority was trying to push any candidate where I visited.

Gallimore, Jamaica's education minister, was sent by Prime Minister Edward Seaga to observe the poll. Most other Caricom states denounced the poll as a sham and refused to send representatives.

Western diplomats estimated that between five and 10 per cent of Haitians voted in Port-au-Prince and 20 to 40 per cent in the provinces.

Gallimore said there was a steady flow of voters in areas he visited and polling stations were without a military presence, except in one instance where two Army officers responded to an incident involving an observer. He said there was not the "dramatic long queues" of voters as evident in the violence-derailed November 29 poll, but indications were that voting occurred more rapidly.

"I would say (the election) is different to what we are accustomed to in the Anglo-Saxon world, in that we cherish secrecy of the vote, but people (here) come with their open ballaots. They do it openly," Gallimore said.

A major demand of Caricom countries was for the Namphy-led military government to ensure the secrecy of the ballot.

Gallimore said voters at one station he visited were given envelopes to put their ballots in, "but many of the people opened up the ballots in front of everyone because secrecy of the ballot has not been a thing that is cherished here as it is in the rest of the West Indies."

The outstanding question in Haiti on Monday, posed by most educated Haitians as well as by diplomats, was whether the military junta and the new government could win any degree of credibility for the elections. A REUTER report said the boycotting of the poll by most Haitians had been widely expected here but clear fraud, witnessed by diplomats and foreign journalists, surprised many.

Montserrat

Opposition Leader on Haitian Elections

FL150211 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Jan 14, CANA—The leader of the opposition in Montserrat, Bertrand Osbourne, urged Caricom governments on Thursday not to recognise any administration resulting from this Sunday's presidential elections in Haiti.

Osbourne told CANA that while he accepted that regional governments were trying to influence favourable reforms in the Haitian electoral process through their communique issued in Barbados last week, he did not think their efforts were going to be successful.

He said the existing electoral rules and regulations do not allow for free and fair elections and a government emerging from the poll should not be given Caribbean recognition.

Osbourne said he did not agree with the call by Montserrat's Chief Minister John Osborne for some sort of foreign intervention in Haiti, saying he did not consider it necessary at this time.

He added that what the people of Haiti needed at this moment is strong moral support from democratic governments in the region and internationally.

Commenting on the differences in Caricom over the handling of the Haitian situation, Osbourne said he did not think these would lead to any permanent rift in the regional grouping.

El Salvador

Duarte Gives Pre-Summit News Conference

PA161507 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jan 88

[News conference held by President Jose Napoleon Duarte with unidentified reporters in San Salvador "prior to leaving for Costa Rica"—recorded]

[Text] [Duarte] The first thing I will tell the presidents is that I have complied with the Esquipulas agreement, but that others have not. The Esquipulas plan is a good one. It calls for an amnesty where there are no political conflicts. That is certainly good; it must be done. I have emptied the jails. That is what Nicaragua must do. It must release all prisoners; releasing just a few is not enough. This is not complying with the agreement. I have complied with the agreement. We must struggle for peace and eliminate war.

We must continue the dialogue. We must make dialogue prevail over violence and reason prevail over resentment. We committed ourselves to do that and that is what we must seek.

[Reporter] After meeting President Arias [words indistinct] did someone suggest to you to call [words indistinct] President Arias?

[Duarte] None at all.

[Moderator] Here is Ms [name indistinct] from [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr President, in your opinion, what will be the real prospects of the next meeting, those related issues such as Nicaragua's nonfulfillment of the agreements and peace in El Salvador? Which of these two prospects will prevail?

[Duarte] Obviously, the former question is perhaps a little irrelevant, because I believe the most important thing for me and for all Salvadorans is El Salvador. That does not mean I do not realize Nicaragua has an important role to play in the Salvadoran peace process. Undoubtedly, Nicaragua is exporting its revolution and that basically and essentially entails an agreement between the Sandinist government and the FMLN, which has received help from Nicaragua.

I cannot ignore the fact that Nicaragua plays a basic and important role in the destabilization of the Salvadoran Government. Therefore, I must demand that Nicaragua fulfill the agreements and stop helping the Salvadoran guerrilla movement.

Using the reciprocity they [not further identified] used, I will tell you what they say: I will not do anything until the United States stops its activities in Nicaragua, thus I will not fulfill the agreements. By the same token I could also say: I will not fulfill the agreement and in addition I will support the contras. I will build bases in El Salvador to let them attack Nicaragua, because Nicaragua is helping the Salvadoran guerrilla movement. What would that entail? It would entail an increase in the conflict.

I did not do that. I have avoided that and Nicaragua cannot complain about El Salvador's position concerning its support for the contras in Central America. There are no contra communication networks, no bases, no actions, nothing here. I can assure you I personally ordered the dismantling of the contra bases here, which had been installed against my will.

Therefore, I cannot accept reciprocity in that sense. El Salvador is first, but I cannot ignore Nicaragua's role in our peace process. That is why I say Salvadorans have a right to demand things from Nicaragua. It is our duty to demand that Nicaragua stop helping the Salvadoran guerrilla movement. That is the answer to the first question you asked. I guess I answered in a reversed order. What was your other question?

[Reporter] I asked you what were the real prospects of the upcoming summit?

[Duarte] I believe that the real prospects of the summit would be the following: What would happen if we all went to Costa Rica today having fulfilled the agreements? I would happily go to say thank God we all fulfilled the agreement. It would not be too important, if the goals were not attained, because we could take further steps to achieve our goals and make more advancements in the process. I would agree to that.

However, that is not the case. What happened was what I always feared. I am not naive to believe in promises made by communists.

That is why I was not trapped by communist promises here. I was not trapped by Ortega's promises at Esquipulas, either.

The first thing I said in Guatemala at the news conference held after the signing of the agreement—some of you were there, in fact—was: I signed this agreement in good faith and I hope the rest of the area presidents did the same. I personally posed the question to each of them: President Arias, are you going to fulfill this agreement in good faith? I then asked Ortega: Will you fulfill this agreement in good faith? Ortega said yes. I asked him again and I told him I am going to ask you again: Mr Ortega, are you going to fulfill this commitment in good faith? He said yes. Then, I asked him a third time. I told him, I am going to ask you for the third time: Are you going to fulfill this agreement in good faith? He said yes again. Then I told him: Let me shake your hand. I shook his hand and told him: I want to tell you that I accept your promises, but I warn you that if you do not fulfill this agreement, I will sue you and I will publicly denounce your nonfulfilment of the agreement.

Now, I must tell you I will betray myself by keeping my promise. I will keep my promise. I am going to save and strengthen Esquipulas II. To do that, we must make the treaty prevail. We cannot deceive ourselves. We cannot change things to create an Esquipulas III, just because Esquipulas II did not work. We cannot create Esquipulas IV, V, or VI simply because Esquipulas II did not work. That would only destroy the Esquipulas agreement. I will make Esquipulas II and its commitments prevail. Once they are all fulfilled, then we should seek ways to increase Central American efforts toward peace and understanding through other projects such as economic and social programs, including the Central American parliament, etc. All those things are positive as long as there is a spirit of peace, understanding, and observance of agreements.

As I see it, we must continue struggling to keep the validity of Esquipulas II and to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] movement of troops [words indistinct] Esquipulas II [words indistinct].

[Duarte] No, one cannot conclude that either. Yesterday, I was talking with several Nicaraguans who were here and I asked them: What happened in Nicaragua before and after Esquipulas II? They told me: Esquipulas II gave courage to the democratic sectors inside Nicaragua to take to the streets and show we do not agree with the Marxist regime. They told me: We took the streets, they beat us, but we took to the streets. This strengthened the possibility for Nicaraguan democracy.

In other words, there are good things. For example, before we used to have five or six different policies: the U.S. policy from the White House, the one from the State Department, one from the Security Council, one from the Pentagon, the House, and the Senate. We had various policies. In the past, each U.S. senator had a different foreign affairs policy concerning Central America, El Salvador, or Nicaragua. Now, there is one single policy and that is good. [sentence as heard]

Thus, Esquipulas II has achieved some positive things. However, our dreams and yearnings were not fulfilled, mainly because Esquipulas was not completely fulfilled. That is why I am taking Esquipulas II to this summit. It must be fulfilled. I believe we must make the positive things in Esquipulas II prevail to produce more social, political, and economic opportunities to help solve the Central American crisis.

That is clear enough. I will not destroy Esquipulas II, I will build a more solid base to support Esquipulas II and ensure its fulfillment.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] I am being misinterpreted. I said the Central American presidents had to keep their promise. I added that the governments of the five Central American countries must ask the governments of Nicaragua, the United States, and Cuba to cease all overt or covert aid in the region. This is essential to achieve a real and lasting peace. That is what I said.

[Reporter] You stated that Nicaragua [words indistinct] and that the United States must stop sending aid to the contras.

[Duarte] Let us turn that one around, otherwise I will fall into the trap of discussing matters pertaining to U.S. policy, and I do not wish to do that. Let us turn that question around. What I said was that if Nicaragua abides by the agreements, then the United States will have no excuse to continue aiding the contras and interfering in Nicaragua. That is if Nicaragua abides by the accords. The same applies to us if Nicaragua does not respect the agreements. If Nicaragua respects the clause on the democratization of Nicaragua and puts an end to its totalitarian system, then there will be no excuse for any nation in the world to meddle in strictly Central American matters.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] All that I can say is that I have not been pressured by Mr Powell [U.S. general]. It is true that he came here to explain the United States' position. I clearly let him know that I understood the U.S. position and what it seeks. However, I also told him we were not discussing the United States' position but rather the Central American policy and the commitment the five Central American presidents had made. I additionally told him this was exactly what I was going to say in Costa Rica, and that in order to present my views without any type of interference, I needed the moral authority that independence provides me. That is what I told Mr Powell. Some persons have said that Mr Powell threatened me, but this is not true. Mr Powell did not try to pressure me. I told him that the United States had a problem. Congress will vote on (?more funds for the contras), and that vote depends on the outcome of the San Jose meeting. That is their problem. I am no fool; I am not going to meddle in U.S. policy. Some people say that we are U.S. puppets. Just imagine that. We are their puppets, but they come to us whenever they have to make a decision. Who is the puppet?

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega on 'Historic' Esquipulas Accords

PA191333 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega in Ciudad Dario on 18 January on the occasion of the 121st anniversary of the birth of Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario—recorded]

[Text] Good morning from this town where Ruben Dario was born and lived. Good morning, Nicaraguan people. Today we are commemorating the 121st anniversary of the birth of Ruben Dario, and the 100th

anniversary of "Azul" [collection of verse and prose written by Dario]. All Nicaraguans have learned in one way or another about Dario. In his essays and poems, [words indistinct] in the epic on Chile, and in his poems, Dario voiced the feelings of the volcanoes—our volcanoes—the volcanoes and mountains of our America that kiss the skies, with their feet on the earth, their hands in the stars, and bathed with color. "Azul" was a miracle in the transformation of literature. Dario used to say that blue [azul] is the color of dreams, the color of art, a [word indistinct] color, the color of the seas and of the skies; above all, there is youth and a desire for life within the color.

Our entire future intellectual revolution should be derived from "Azul." Dario was a prophet and a writer. He confirms that what once was a literary fact could develop in Central American politics as a result of our history and our civilization.

The best and greatest homage the Nicaraguans can pay Dario on the centennial of "Azul" is to defend the revolutionary transformations that were achieved on 19 July 1979, when we expelled from our land those whom Dario called buffaloes with silver teeth. On that 19 July, the Nicaraguan people realized Dario's hopes and dreams. On 19 July, the Nicaraguan people—together with Dario and Sandino—forever buried what Dario described as the tyranny of wealth.

We can say that the revolution is "Azul," because the revolution is an epic song, an epic poem. The revolution is fantastic prose written in blood and with our eyes toward the future, despite the sacrifices and pain that comes when defending the revolution.

We always have our eyes and hopes on life and in the future. The revolution is Dario's verse. It is Sandino's, Simon Bolivar's, Jose Marti's, and Che's verse. The revolution is the song of the people. As Dario would say of his creation, "Azul," the revolution is composed of kaleidoscopic words, a combination of harmonic words in rhythmic periods, and thoughts of luminous settings. That is our revolution.

That is our revolution, the one that is resisting and defeating the invading wave due to the courage of Nicaraguan peasants, workers, and the people's soldiers.

The revolution unmasks and defeats what Dario called the false preachers of peace and harmony, the Yankees. Dario called them by their name; he called them false preachers of peace and harmony. The revolution is resisting and defeating the Yankees and their mercenaries.

Latin America is standing tall to defend this revolution. The Contadora Group has indisputably been an expression of Latin American dignity. The Contadora and Support Groups, those eight Latin American countries, have been seriously interested in our peoples' right to self-determination and independence.

Esquipulas II, the peace agreement we signed on 7 August 1987, is a historic agreement that confronts the dignity and pride others have tried to take away from our peoples, although some Central American rulers have surrendered them on several occasions. The Esquipulas agreement is trying to rescue that pride and dignity, which the Central American peoples have never really lost.

Latin America and the Central American peoples are carrying out a difficult struggle now that we celebrate the 100th anniversary of "Azul." It is a struggle against the threats and blackmail imposed by the hostile eagle. It is a struggle carried out by the Haitian people to attain freedom and justice. The heroic Haitian people. It is the struggle of the Argentine people to defend their achieved democracy, which continues to be threatened by those sectors that identify themselves with the imperialist policy. Latin America is looking toward and standing on that [words indistinct] where Dario lived and wrote.

Dario said that the statement America for the Americans does not apply to us. He recalled that Latin America and the Caribbean should be for the people, and should belong to the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

We, the Nicaraguan people, can proudly tell the world that in this battle we are waging for self-determination and independence, the Nicaraguan people have fulfilled our duty. Our fulfillment goes beyond the Esquipulas peace plan. Nicaragua has fulfilled its committment because it has created a revolution. Nicaragua has fulfilled its mission because it is sovereign, free, and independent. Nicaragua has complied because it is democratic for the first time in its history. Nicaragua has complied because the power now belongs to the peasants, the workers, and to the poetry.

All the Latin American and Caribbean peoples without exception want to fulfill their duty in the defense of self-determination, independence, sovereignty, justice, freedom, and democracy.

Some rulers, such as Pinochet and his clique, do not want to fulfill their duty, and therefore, they have to confront the heroic struggle and resistance of their peoples. As for the peace accords, we say that the agreement Nicaragua signed on 7 August 1987 must be fulfilled. That agreement, which was ratified in San Jose, Costa Rica on 15 January by the Central American presidents, must be complied with. Those who do not dare to call the criminal—the U.S. Government—by its name must fulfill this agreement. However, it is not Nicaragua that is the one calling the criminal by its name; it is the judge who gives the criminal its name, and that judge is the ICJ [International Court of Justice], which, in a historic ruling, sentenced the criminal and called it by its name: the United States of America.

Those who attack Nicaragua and declare that Nicaragua possesses the keys to attain peace and to stop the U.S. Government from approving aid for the mercenary forces are forgetting the democratic principles they claim to defend; they are forgetting the international legal order they claim to defend; they are consciously forgetting and ignoring the ICJ ruling; and they are consciously ignoring the rulings of the peoples, which have been proclaimed in several UN and Nonaligned Movement resolutions. Those resolutions clearly told the United States to cease its aggression against Nicaragua and to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict. [applause]

Nicaragua fulfilled its pledge. Those who have not fulfilled the accords should do so now. Those who were bought or who could be bought, or who try to be bought like Judas, must fulfill the accords.

We do not accept, and we cannot accept, that after all of Nicaragua's efforts in the 15 January discussion of the peace plan, some will come out arguing and saying that Nicaragua is the one that must fulfill the accords. They do not dare say that the United States is the one that must comply with measures, that must respect international law, that must respect the Esquipulas agreement, and that must respect the decisions that the Central American rulers ratified on 15 January.

There is no room for hypocrites at this time in the history of Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. We must speak clearly, and if speaking the truth means upsetting Goliath, then let Goliath become upset and angry. If speaking the truth means that Goliath will cut off economic and military aid to any country, then let Goliath leave and take his economic and military aid with him. But let Goliath leave the Central Americans in peace, and let us solve our own problems.

The U.S. rulers must comply. They are the ones who must comply. It is constantly said that Nicaragua must comply, but we are moving along with the truth. This is not the time for cowardly attitudes; this is the time for firm attitudes. The U.S. leaders must be clearly told this. Latin America and the Caribbean have been told this before, and they must be told it again; the international community has been told this before, and it must be told it again; the peoples have told the U.S. leaders, and must tell them again: They—the U.S. leaders—must comply by immediately ending the aggression against the Nicaraguan people.

On the eve of the celebrations marking the centennial of Ruben Dario's "Azul," I attended the meeting of the Central American presidents in San Jose, Costa Rica, which had been scheduled since 7 August 1987. Through the media in San Jose, Costa Rica, we explained Nicaragua's position. At the conclusion of the talks, the Central American presidents signed a document in which we ratified our willingness to comply with the Esquipulas accords, and—among other things—we urged an end to support for rebel forces—in other words, ending the U.S. financing of the armed contra groups. This is an indispensable element for peace. That is the way the document literally reads: an indispensable element for achieving peace.

I am quoting from what was also drafted and signed by the presidents in a document on 7 August, which we mentioned again in this document signed on 15 January. The document we signed on 15 August [as heard] practically dispenses with the role of the CIVS [International Verification and Follow-Up Commission].

We stated to the very end that we did not agree with setting the CIVS aside. We must clearly say that on 7 August 1987, we Central Americans agreed to establish the CIVS. Moreover, we clearly said that the Contadora and the Support Groups, the UN, the OAS, and the five Central American countries should follow up and verify compliance with the agreement. Therefore, when the Central American presidents agreed by a majority vote to do without the CIVS, they were affecting and altering the contents of the peace document we signed on 7 August 1987. The document was substantially altered, and Nicaragua does not agree with this modification.

What generated this modification? What is the reason for this reaction? The fundamental task of the CIVS was to verify and follow up—as established on 7 August—security issues between the states. We had determined it was inconvenient for the CIVS to become involved in internal issues, because each country supposedly should be responsible for those matters. However, one of the states was not so interested in having the CIVS perform its verification and follow-up role for security matters. During a meeting held in New York in November 1987, that country, in seeking to prolong this matter, proposed that the CIVS also verify internal issues. Well, we agreed to this; we agreed to this [Ortega repeats himself]. The aforementioned country began to extend the talks on the role of the CIVS in security matters concerning the verification and follow-up process—that is, the use of Central American territories by irregular forces or insurgent movements to attack other Central American states. Because the previously mentioned country was not so interested in having the CIVS begin to perform its role in this regard, that state proposed something, something that had already been agreed upon in a mandate issued by the Central American nations. Thus, the CIVS visited the five Central American states as established in the mandate, and not merely because the CIVS had thought about it. [announcer interrupts to say station is broadcasting Ortega speech]

[Ortega continues...in progress] No Central American country abstained from participating in the CIVS tour, because the CIVS is composed, as I was telling you, of the five Central American states. No Central American country refused to permit the CIVS tour to verify how implementation of the peace plan was progressing in each Central American country.

Then why this rejection of the 14 January meeting of the CIVS now? Why are they [not further identified] upset? Why have some Central American governments issued statements against the CIVS report? Simply because the CIVS report uncovered a lack of democracy, a lack of freedom, a lack of justice, and a violation of human rights in Central American countries. When we met in Guatemala City on 7 August 1987, Nicaragua was the antidemocratic country; Nicaragua was the one that should have a democracy, because all the other Central American states had pure democracies. This was their position. All the other Central American countries had pure, full, and unquestionable democracies. Nicaragua was the one that had to construct its democracy; Nicaragua was undemocratic. Nicaragua violated human rights, while the other Central American states did not. This was their position.

What did the CIVS report? The CIVS showed and exposed all the filth, all the garbage that exists in all Central American countries, including those that claim to have exemplary democracies. The CIVS report demonstrated that in that country [not further identified], only one strike has been declared as legal in the past 10 years. It reported a number of prisoners, peasants, that have been arrested and are imprisoned for occupying land. The CIVS reported that the Communist Party is banned in several Central American countries. It also reported that in some Central American states—despite and contrary to the will of their presidents—thousands of persons have disappeared and thousands have been murdered, which explains why they do not have political prisoners—simply because political prisoners or any suspects have been murdered. The reporting of these facts caused the CIVS report to be rejected.

What did they [some Central American countries] expect from CIVS? Obviously, the CIVS had to reflect reality, and it noted—in Nicaragua's case, too—the reports made by opposition groups here. The CIVS report is objective, and Nicaragua has not questioned it. However, the document was questioned by other Central American countries in Panama, where it was being discussed and drafted. At that time, when a Central American state disagreed with the CIVS report—and that country's representative stated, I believe, that what you have been told is incorrect—the CIVS would reconsider the case, and if it considered it to be just, this would be added to the report. If the CIVS did not believe the item questioned to be just, then the Central American country would have to accept the report as it had been drafted. The CIVS would then add to the document that such a state indicated that it did not agree with this specific report.

What was the general attitude at these meetings? It was one of pressure and threats against the CIVS, with warnings that nothing would result. At the conclusion, the CIVS yielded. For the most part, the report is a very long one to save face for that Central American state [not further identified].

From the start, Nicaragua accepted the report as it was; we did not question it.

This was Nicaragua's role. Nicaragua did not question the report; it abided by what was agreed upon. Other Central American governments, however, violated the Esquipulas accords. The Esquipulas agreement was violated when the majority decided at the 15 January meeting to virtually prevent the CIVS from carrying out its efforts. Why? Because the CIVS report does not meet the expectations of the Central American heads of state. They wanted the report to say what they had in mind, what was good for them. Therefore, they wanted a report full of lies, a report asserting that perfect democracy exists in every Central American country, except for Nicaragua; that human rights are violated in Nicaragua and not in any other Central American nation; that there is democracy in every Central American country except for Nicaragua; that people are reported missing and political prisoners are killed in Nicaragua but not in any other Central American country.

But because CIVS was unwilling to lie, the results of this meeting were negative. There are negative aspects. Nevertheless, generally speaking, the net effect of the meeting was positive, because the peace plan was endorsed. The (?administrative) aspects of this peace plan were affected. We will continue struggling so that the meeting of foreign ministers can determine the manner of verification. This verification must include security. On-site inspections must take place; we stress this very adamantly, and we have reasserted this. We believe in the honor and the word pledged by the Central American presidents. We must believe. Yet, we, the FSLN National Directorate, say: We must believe and we must believe more in the controls because the controls will confirm if the good intentions and good faith will be effective. If they are not effective then this is all a lie. This is a lie that is uncovered by the controls. If there is a fraud, then it will be uncovered by the controls.

We trust in the honor and the word pledged by the Central American presidents, yet we trust controlling conditions even more. For this reason, the on-site inspections are essential and must be carried out as soon as possible. This will serve as a test to determine whether we are all truly willing to comply with the Esquipulas accords. The idea is not only for Nicaragua to lift the state of emergency; the idea is not simply for Nicaragua to amend the amnesty law in order to put amnesty in the hands of the CIVS. Nicaragua would immediately amend the amnesty law if the U.S. Government, for example, was willing to receive the contras who are now imprisoned. We would immediately send them to him [President Reagan]. I believe that President Reagan, if he is true to his word—he has even compared the mercenaries, those terrorists and criminals, with champions of freedom such as Jefferson, Lincoln, and other U.S. national heros—would not refuse to receive Jefferson or Lincoln in the United States at this moment. [applause]

Therefore, freedom lies in the hands of President Reagan. Freedom lies in the hands of those Jeffersons, and those Lincolns who are here in Nicaraguan jails.

I told you that on-site inspections are essential, and that they test the willingness of all Central American presidents to fulfill the agreement.

Any Central American government that refuses to allow an on-site inspection is demonstrating that it is unprepared to comply with the agreement. Let them not try to tell us that Nicaragua is the only country that should comply. All of us must comply, all of us without exception. That was the criterion of the meeting in Costa Rica; that was the criterion. The Nicaraguan delegation told the Central American presidents: We are all going to comply; we are all going to comply [Ortega repeats himself]. We will see in the days to come if we all agree to on-site inspections.

Nicaragua has already said that it agrees to on-site inspections; Honduras has said that it agrees to on-site inspections; and Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica have also said they agree to this. Therefore, we will not have long to wait before undergoing on-site inspections. On-site inspections are as important as are the talks for reaching a cease-fire with the rebel groups in the various Central American countries.

In that 15 January document, we again stated our willingness in this regard. We said that while in Costa Rica, not only must Nicaragua work to reach a cease-fire agreement in the next few days, but so too must the Government of El Salvador. The guerrilla movement is well-developed there, well-developed. It is rooted in El Salvador's socioeconomic situation, a matter that is well known to President Duarte, who was a friend and ally of the Salvadoran rebels until 1979.

The guerrilla movement in El Salvador existed long before the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution; we Nicaraguans did not invent it. That struggle was begun by the Salvadoran people. President Duarte himself participated in that struggle when he was on the side of the people, when he was with the guerrillas, when he was on the side of the groups that are struggling for democracy in El Salvador.

Therefore, the Central American countries that have armed movements will have to work as hard as Nicaragua has to reach a cease-fire. We will see in the next few days who will begin. They [not further identified] want to hold a microscope only to Nicaragua. That is the United States' intention and plan: to spy on and watch over Nicaragua, while paying no attention to the others. Ah, the others are complying. [Words indistinct]. All the others complied; and only Nicaragua failed to comply. This is completely absurd, because we all know that everyone of us, in one way or another and to a greater or lesser degree, is working to make the peace plan become 100-percent effective.

We will see who will work to reach agreements this year. We will see what having attained a cease-fire will mean. It is important that we not confuse this with the so-called dialogue with the contras, for this is not a dialogue with the contras.

The agreement on a cease-fire is a measure established in the Esquipulas accords. In it, those Central American governments faced with armed groups pledge to take steps to ensure that—with all the appropriate guarantees—those armed groups will stop waging war, lay down their weapons, and accept amnesty. When they have done all this, they will no longer be armed groups; they will be unarmed groups. If they wish to become opposition groups, they will be able to do so, and they will be able to participate as just another political party in the national dialogue promoted in each country. If they wish to become members of any opposition party, they will also be able to do so.

I have no doubt that, with things being the way they are, if a cease-fire agreement is reached and the contras lay down their arms and accept amnesty, there would be no need for the contras to form another party. This is because the parties already exist. Some of them would join the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board, while others would join Altamirano's party. Some would join the Socialist Party, while others would join Mario Rappaccioli's party, because there is not a great deal of difference; there is no great difference; there is no great difference. [Ortega repeats himself] There would be a few more militants within the ranks of those parties, and they would have a few more members.

We spoke in San Jose of lifting the state of emergency throughout the nation; we spoke of the amnesty. I explained how this amnesty would be implemented. We spoke of the cease-fire, as well of elections for a Central American parliament and of municipal elections.

We reiterated Nicaragua's desire for peace and our desire to work for it. I am explaining this because one publication reports that Brooklyn Rivera is accepting the amnesty. That is not the case. We have followed a different policy with regard to Nicaraguans who inhabit the Atlantic region of our country, who are of Miskito, Sumu, or Rama origin, and who have confronted us militarily. This is because their basic attitudes are different: They are not struggling to overthrow the revolutioon; they have taken up arms while confused by this war provoked by the United States. They did not take up arms to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government or to put an end to the revolution, but instead have their own demands concerning the Atlantic coast. The government has given them its response—the autonomy process, a new autonomy.

We are working with Rivera to secure a cease-fire with armed groups of Miskito origin, in keeping with the Esquipulas accords, with the mediation of the Moravian

Church. This is because we must recognize that Nicaragua has not only the Catholic Church, but also the Evangelical Church and other denominations, including the Moravian Church on the Atlantic coast, which is the predominant church there. It is logical that in this mediation for a cease-fire—in this case with the Miskitos, whom Brooklyn Rivera represents—this cessation of hostilities must be secured through the mediation of the Moravian Church. We discussed this with Brooklyn Rivera during another effort to attain peace. We agreed, in principle, that he would arrive here in Nicaragua on the 23d [month not specified], accompanied by the Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica.

In view of these peace efforts reflected in the agreement signed on 15 January, we hope that the U.S. Congress will not continue to approve funds for the contra mercenaries. We cannot allow, we do not allow—we made this very clear in Costa Rica, and the Central American presidents agreed—we cannot allow new funds to be approved, new funds to be approved [Ortega repeats himself]. That simply would not contribute to the peace process in Central America, and it would give the Nicaraguan Government the freedom to take all those measures deemed necessary to defend the sovereignty, the self-determination, and the independence of our nation.

These measures would not violate the Esquipulas peace plan. Under such circumstances, I believe that the least that could be done would be to convene a meeting of Central American presidents, or to ask them to take special action to counter what would be a historic error on the part of the United States, on the part of the U.S. Congress. We would summon the Latin American and Caribbean community, and the international community, to counter such a move. But before the U.S. Congress commits such an error, it is preferrable to undertake all efforts to prevent this mistake from being made. Therefore, from this land of Ruben Dario, we appeal to the governments and peoples of Latin America, to the American people, the EEC, to Canada, and to all the countries of the world to immediately redouble their efforts so that the U.S. Congress will not approve a single cent more for the mercenary forces, even under the alleged guise that it would be humanitarian aid. This is because the so-called humanitarian aid is aid for war; it is aid for death.

Therefore, any type of aid is unacceptable. If the U.S. Congress makes the mistake of approving new funds, if the Yankees act as enemies of the Nicaraguan people, as enemies of humanity—because they would be turning deaf ears to all of humanity—if the Yankees are intent on sowing death and destruction, here in this Nicaragua of Dario and Sandino, nobody will surrender. [applause] Here the positions are already delineated by the traitors and sell-outs. They were born with sold-out souls, and they surrendered to Walker, to Somoza, and to Reagan. Since they are nothing, they have nothing to surrender, because they were born in a surrendered state. They have nothing to relinquish, because they were born relinquished. But the Nicaraguan people, the workers, the peasants, rising above the pain, the difficulties, the scarcity of products that we are suffering due to the war, the blockade, especially the scarcity of sugar—the comrades who represent two fishing cooperatives who have said they need sugar to sell their goods, we will see what we can do for them—rising above all of these necessities, they are with the revolution. They are making just demands; they cannot be happy if they need sugar. Logically, no one can be happy if there is a shortage of sugar, if there is a scarcity of rice. How can they be happy? Nobody can be happy. But that does not mean they oppose the revolution. [applause]

In rising above this tragedy imposed on us by the terrorist policy of the U.S. President, the Nicaraguan revolution will triumph. And just as we are in Ciudad Dario today celebrating the anniversary of the creation of "Azul," the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Nicaraguan peasants, Nicaraguan workers, Nicaraguan professionals, Nicaraguan intellectuals, and the grandchildren and great-grandchildren—the children of the children of the children of the Nicaraguan workers—will also celebrate the centennial of the Sandinist people's revolution on 19 July in the year 2079. [applause] [sentence as heard]

Because this is a revolution that is a creation like "Azul," it is filled with love for art and love for love, as Dario said. This revolution is a challenge to the creativity and to the imagination of the masses. Works such as this are immortal, and works such as this cannot be buried. Works such as this are invincible, because they are written in the blood, the heroism, the pain, and the sacrifice of the Nicaraguan workers. Free fatherland [crowd responds: "Or death!"] Free fatherland or death!

CDN Renews Invitation to Tripartite Talks

PA191504 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] In view of the treacherous publications issued by the Nicaraguan Government aimed at impairing our line of civic action and weakening the patriotic conscience of the 14 political parties and groups in the country that have joined in demanding the democratization of Nicaragua, the CDN [Democratic Coordinating Board] informs the Nicaraguan people and the Central American community that during the past few days, we have sought to contribute to the quest for peace and national reconciliation.

In July 1987, after analyzing the Arias plan, the CDN made a proposal that was delivered to and discussed with the Central American presidents. We stated that in our opinion, the valid interlocutors for finding a solution to the Nicaraguan problem are and continue to be:

A. The government

B. The domestic civic opposition

C. The political-military opposition

Later, in August 1987, during the Guatemala summit of Central American presidents, the CDN maintained its stand and proposed a tripartite meeting with the participation of the FSLN government, the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and the CDN.

In December 1987 and again in January 1988, we reiterated our proposal and sent telegrams on the matter to the five Central American presidents, to the RN, and to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

This initiative follows a steady political line that is well-known to the public and that is aimed at achieving the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family through democratization. We again invited the same parties to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica on 14 and 15 January.

In addition, at the invitation of the Guatemalan Institute of Sociopolicital Studies—an organization for the political training of Guatemalan Christian Democrats—we participated this week in a second seminar on the subject of the Esquipulas II accords. The objective of that seminar was to persevere in the search for mechanisms to resolve the military conflict that is bleeding the Nicaraguan people, and along with peace to achieve the democracy that the people yearn for.

In this new effort, our delegation held talks with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and with Salvadroan President Jose Napoleon Duarte. We informed them of the grave situation Nicaragua is still confronting due to noncompliance with the Guatemala accords. As a result of those meetings, our convictions in favor of the civic struggle for democratization have been strengthened.

During our stay in Guatemala, we received a reply to the CDN's invitation from the RN. This reply that has already been published in various media, such as in the 14 January edition of LA PRENSA.

The CDN reaffirms that noncompliance with the Esquipulas II accords has reduced the possibilities for finding a political solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. The CDN, which is aware of the Sandinist regime's old trick of associating the peaceful opposition with war, sees in the Ministry of Interior's communique published in EL NUEVO DIARIO and BARRICADA on 15 January a new attempt to behead the civic opposition and to destroy the growing unification process currently developing in Nicaragua.

The CDN reiterates once again that it will continue to promote the necessary initiatives to seek an agreement between the Nicaraguan parties, an agreement that will lead to a peaceful solution of the grave conflict that has immersed our country in political, social, and economic chaos.

The active mediation of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo continues to be fundamental and essential to the success of the accords.

In conclusion, the CDN protests these new threats before the meeting of Central American presidents in San Jose, and it holds the Sandinist government responsible for whatever may happen to its members.

San Jose, 15 January 1988

CDN, Carlos Huembes, president

RN Agrees To 'Direct' Talks With Government

PA191808 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1750 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Miami, 19 Jan (REUTER)—The contra leadership today agreed to hold direct negotiations with Nicaragua's leftist government and announced that it will meet with mediator Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in Costa Rica to prepare for these negotiations.

In a declaration issued here, the seven leaders of the RN accused Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega of undermining the Central American peace process but noted that they are willing to hold face-to-face talks in San Jose.

The rebel leaders, backed by the United States, said that they are planning to meet privately with the Nicaraguan cardinal in San Jose on Thursday.

To Meet Obando y Bravo 21 Jan

PA192001 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1850 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Communique issued by the RN, in Miami on 19 January; read by Secretary Roberto Ferrey—live or recorded]

[Text] The RN Directorate reports to the people:

1. We recognize the four democratic presidents in Central America who, aware of the history of deceptions by dictator Daniel Ortega and the FSLN, decided not to extend the deadline of the accords and instead demanded their immediate and unilateral implementation in an all-encompassing, public, strict, and unalterable manner without hesitation or excuses. It is evident that the peremptory terms included in the presidents' declaration specifically refer to the FSLN. It is also evident that these prove the conviction of the RN concerning the Sandinists' ill will. The only goal they

sought when signing the peace accords was, and continues to be, the elimination of resistance groups—which are the main obstacle to the implementation of their totalitarian project.

2. On Thursday, 21 January, the members of the RN Directorate will meet with mediator Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in San Jose, Costa Rica. After the meeting, the RN will be willing to attend talks in San Jose, Costa Rica to discuss cease-fire conditions with other Nicaraguans. In addition, and to make up for lost time due to the unflexible attitude of the Sandinists, the RN considers the tripartite negotiating meeting—between the Sandinist Government, the RN, and the internal civic opposition—for attaining the democratication of Nicaragua to be extremely important. This is the only guarantee for a lasting peace.

3. The appointment of two advisers to the RN cease-fire commission; namely Gonzalo J. Facio, former Costa Rican foreign minister during the National Liberation Party's governments of Jose Figueres and Daniel Oduber; and Admiral Romualdo Emilio Jimenez, former Dominican foreign minister who presided over the 17th consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers in June 1979. This meeting resolved to immediately replace the previous dictatorship with a democratic regime that fully respected human rights. Following approximately 9 years of dictatorship, this resolution remains unfulfilled by the FSLN.

19 January 1988

RN Directorate: Azucena Ferrey, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Adolfo Calero, Aristides Sanchez, Alfredo Cesar, and Alfonso Robelo.

Presidential Decrees Rescind Legislation

No 296 Repeals Tribunals Law

PA192230 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2117 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Nicaraguan Presidential Decree 296 repealing the law on the People's Anti-Somozist Tribunals; issued in Managua on 19 January]

[Text] The president declares, whereas:

1. It is the government's desire to take all those steps contained in the agreements signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala City and on 16 January 1988 in Alajuela, Costa Rica, to reach an effective peace and to end the aggression—directed and organized by the U.S. Government—suffered by our fatherland; therefore [the president], making use of his powers, decrees:

Article 1. Decree 1233 of 11 April 1983, the law on the People's Anti-Somozist Tribunals, is repealed.

Article 2. The cases under review by such tribunals will be transferred, by virtue of this law, to the relevant regular courts.

Article 3. The present decree will become effective on the date of its publication by any communications media, not withstanding its subsequent publication in the official gazette DIARIO OFICIAL

Issued in Managua on 19 January 1988

No 297 Ends State of Emergency

PA192231 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2123 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Nicaraguan Presidential Decree 297 lifting the state of emergency; issued in Managua on 19 January]

[Text] The president declares, whereas:

1. It is the Nicaraguan Government's desire to take all those steps contained in the agreements signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala City and on 16 January 1988 in Alajuela, Costa Rica to secure an effective peace and to end the aggression—directed and organized by the U.S. Government—suffered by our fatherland; therefore [the president], making use of his powers, decrees:

Article 1. The state of emergency contained in Decrees 245 and 250 of 1987 is lifted throughout the national territory, thus reestablishing the total exercise of the constitutional rights and guarantees of the Nicaraguan political Constitution.

Article 2. Decrees 245 and 250 of 1987, and Law 34 of 30 November 1987, are repealed.

Article 3. The present decree will become effective on the date of its publication by any communications media, notwithstanding its subsequent publication in the official gazette DIARIO OFICIAL.

Issued in Managua on 19 January 1988

Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president

Opposition Leaders Reportedly Arrested

PA191639 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—According to political sources, five members of the Nicaraguan civic, internal opposition were arrested today by state security agents following their return from San Jose, Costa Rica.

Persons who observed the arrests at Augusto C. Sandino International Airport in Managua said that CDN President Carlos Huembes was among those arrested.

In addition, Gilberto Cuadra, vice president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP); and Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, one of LA PRENSA's editors and leader of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, were also arrested.

The list of those arrested includes: Conservative Party President Miriam Arguello Morales and Social Christian leader Cairo Manuel Lopez.

The sources attributed these arrests to a report the Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior issued concerning a meeting that took place in Guatemala between the CDN leaders and RN leaders.

According to Sandinist officials, the leaders attending that meeting discussed forming a "single front" that would promote "plots and terrorist actions in Nicaragua."

Dissident political leaders, who participated in the 12 January meeting in Guatemala, denied the Ministry of Interior's charges and asserted that the opposition leaders even refused to sign a document proposed by the RN elite.

The document contained strong criticism of the Nicaraguan Government for its noncompliance with the Esquipulas II agreement.

The government has released seven opposition leaders arrested last weekend.

Panama

Blandon Replaced as New York Consul General

PA152023 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The executive branch has appointed Alberto Garcia de Paredes as consul general to New York. Decree No 8, which was signed by President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Acting Foreign Minister Jose Cabreras, states that Alberto Garcia de Paredes will be replacing Jose Isabel Blandon, whose appointment has been revoked.

Human Rights Group Protests Detentions

PA170450 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1358 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Panamanian Human Rights Committee has reported that 36 people were illegally detained Saturday during the demonstrations that started with the rumor that Panama Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega had resigned his post. The humanitarian organization, headed by Oswaldo Velasquez, presented testimony by Roberto Henriquez and Astrid de Vasquez, who asserted: With no lawyers present, we were tried and sentenced on charges of disrupting public order.

On 9 January, hundreds of people demonstrated along Panama City's main streets when a rumor was spread that Gen Noriega had resigned and left for the Dominican Republic. In a press conference, Velasquez discussed human rights violations in Panama.

[Begin Velasquez recording] [Words indistinct] totally controlled or financed by the Defense Forces. It was a terrible human rights violation. These are the most glaring violations. The committee has recorded a figure of 36 or more people being detained that day. Those detained, without being present, were sentenced by a night judge to 365 days. This is a crime. In addition, the detainees were denied the right to be defended by their lawyers. They were simply arrested [words indistinct] organized by a law graduate, not by a military man or someone ignorant of what a legal trial means. The detainees remained incommunicado throughout their detention. Most of them were detained for 48 hours; not one was allowed to receive clothes, food, or medicines. This is a terrible psychological torture both for the detainees and their relatives. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Steps Initiated To Reopen National Media

PA191517 [Editorial Report] Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 18 January broadcasts two 10-minute reports on the reopening of the Panamanian media closed by the government last summer.

The first report states that Panamanian Public Prosecutor Elias Gonzalez formally delivered the keys to the installations of the newspaper, LA PRENSA, to the paper's directors. The report includes recorded statements by LA PRENSA Director Alfredo Jimenez, who says the condition of the equipment is good, although lack of maintenance has resulted in some damage. Jimenez adds that it will take approximately 48 hours to repair the equipment.

The second report says that on 18 January Public Prosecutor Jose Pio Castillero handed over the keys to the installations of the newspaper, EL SIGLO, where a routine inspection was conducted to check the equipment for damage from lack of maintenance.

The report states that the office of the public prosecutor will take the necessary steps to reopen the newspaper, EXTRA, on 19 January, and concludes by saying it is not known whether the installations of Radio Continente had been reopened yet.

EL SIGLO Resumes Publication

PA191754 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 19 Jan (AFP)—The Panamanian daily EL SIGLO resumed publication today, warning that it will continue "with the same courage and objectivity" that it was noted for prior to 27 July 1987 when

it was shut down along with six other opposition communications media for allegedly inciting the disruption of public order. In its first editorial after being shut down for 175 days, EL SIGLO says the shutdown was "a disgraceful outrage and an ordeal that has not ended yet" as well as a "legal monstrosity that should never be allowed again." The newspaper added that "what happened in Panama had never happened before in the history of journalism."

Likewise, the tabloid publishes in its inside pages an article entitled "Let Noriega Go" (the chief of the Panama Defense Forces) which is a proposal made by the Civic Crusade for establishing a "provisional government junta," suspending the national Legislative Assembly, eliminating the Supreme Court of Justice, and calling for elections in 18 months.

Meanwhile, the opposition daily LA PRENSA announced last night that it will resume publications this week after technicians have carefully checked the equipment. The government and Justice Ministry returned the installations to the newspaper's board of directors yesterday.

Within the next few days, it is also expected that the other five media that were closed will open: the newspaper EXTRA, the weekly QUIUBO, and radio stations KW Continente, Sonora, and Mundial.

EL SIGLO Expresses 'Outrage'

PA192326 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Unprecedented Outrage"]

[Text] After a long night, we have returned. After 175 days of forced closure, of ignominious abuse, we are here. This is a Calvary that has not yet ended, but which is marking a new milestone with our reappearance. Never in the history of journalism anywhere in the world, under any circumstances, has what has happended in Panama taken place. Not even during the Bolshevik revolution, or in Sandinist Nicaragua, or in Pinochet's Chile have governments dared to physically seize the property, buildings, equipment and machinery at the place where newspapers are published. They have prohibited the printing and circulation of newspapers, but they have not seized private property, as has been the case here. EL SIGLO denounces this outrage to international journalistic organizations as an illegal monstrosity that should never be permitted. Not a single charge has been brought against our newspaper or those of us who publish it that could stand up to the most superficial legal analysis. Moreover, even if there had been grounds for proceedings to be brought against us, in the worst case what would have been required was the temporary closure of the newspaper, not the seizure and gross forfeiture of the buildings where the newspaper operates. Let the people take note, because aberrations like this one will have to be punished as soon as circumstances permit.

Civic Crusade Proposes Program for Democracy

PA192205 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Jan 88 pp 8, 9

["Proposed Program for a Transition to Democracy" issued by the National Civic Crusade in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] Introduction:

The National Civic Crusade presents to the Panamanian people this proposed program for a transition to democracy, which establishes the political bases and programs of a provisional government, in light of the fact that the incompetence and systematic corruption of the national government have led to the destruction of Panama's democratic institutions and have become the main obstacle to the effective establishment of a legal state. The Panamanian people, therefore, cannot trust and expect that this same government will lead the nation toward a true democracy. For this reason, the civic movement proposes that sufficient time should be allotted in advance to consider and broadly discuss the organization, functions, and guidelines of a provisional transition government, a transitory preliminary period that is indispensable to direct the country in an orderly manner toward a solid and real democracy. This document has been subjected to as broad a review as circumstances have permitted, and it reflects a patriotic sentiment, since it is consistent with the concepts of national unification and with the solution of the country's crucial needs. It is also imbued with profound nationalism, since it implies a commitment to exercise true sovereignty and to independently use our geographic position and its current advantages as important means of achieving a true, generalized economic development. It is the result of an arduous but concerted effort and a sincere desire for peace among all the nation's sectors which are demanding conditions conducive to change, after having chosen civic and moral values over corruption and immorality as the true bases of society and of men. Its content must be received as the initial sign of the moral recovery of the Panamanian nation, and of its irrevocable decision to assume the right to govern itself by means of democratic formulas, which obliges all the nation's sectors to unite in efforts to replace a military dictatorship with a truly democratic system.

Finally, this program is guided by the same ideals that led to the spontaneous birth of the great national civic movement. These ideals are: an impartial system of justice, respect for the rights of man, acceptance of the will freely expressed at the polls, and honesty and integrity in the management of public affairs.

I. Composition of a Provisional Government

Once the main obstacles to the establishment of a legal regime have been overcome, and in interpreting the desires of the great majority of the Panamanian people, we propose the establishment of a Provisional Government Junta composed of three members who will act by majority vote. The current Legislative Assembly will cease to function, and the Provisional Government Junta will exercise legislative powers through cabinet decrees during the term of the Provisional Government, which will be no longer than 18 months.

We believe that the members of the Provisional Junta and its governing team should not only inspire trust in the citizenry but should also be of recognized moral rectitude and have the broadest and proper [debido] political and popular support in order to be able to govern in the difficult period of transition, when the provisional government will undoubtedly find the country afflicted with very serious problems of all kinds. In view of this, we propose that the members of the Provisional Junta and its governing team be ineligible for elective posts in the next elections.

Within these guidelines, we recommend that the Provisional Government Junta be composed as follows: One member designated by the opposition political parties and two members designated by the National Civic Crusade.

II. Priority Goals of a Provisional Government

A provisional government should only lead the country to elections within 18 months and take care of those aspects of national reconstruction that cannot be postponed so as to ensure and strengthen the institutionalization of the democratic process.

A provisional government should devote time only to the most essential tasks. Even more importantly, it will be up to the Panamanian people to determine the most important aspects regarding economic and social policies and international relations, through elections within the mechanisms of a free, democratic process.

Therefore, we propose that a provisional government undertake the following priority tasks:

1. Prepare Elections

Preparations should be made to hold elections within the 18-month period we have already mentioned. This preparation requires the following actions:

a. Designate a new Electoral Tribunal headed by well-known, honest, and qualified magistrates and an electoral overseer [fiscal electoral] with similar qualifications.

b. Immediately update the electoral census and speed up the process of issuing I.D. cards.

c. Prepare the necessary Electoral Law amendments.

d. Create an independent body formed by very reliable representatives of the various sectors. This body would act as an elections observer.

2. Restructure the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's office

The Supreme Court of Justice and the Higher Tribunals will be formed with qualified, honest, and independently thinking justices who can make the people trust our judicial system. These justices will be responsible for the sacred duty of acting in accordance with the Constitution and its laws, impartially and expeditiously.

A similar procedure will be followed regarding the positions of the attorney general, attorney general of the administration, assistant public prosecutor, prosecutor delegate of the Attorney General's Office, higher prosecutors of judicial districts, and circuit prosecutors. The same principles outlined regarding the Judicial Branch will apply here.

The Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office should guarantee complete justice for all Panamanians without any discrimination whatsoever. These two institutions will be provided with mechanisms and technical and human resources so they can properly investigate crimes. This will be their exclusive function.

3. Foreign Debt and Public Finances

The foreign debt will be given immediate attention in order to reduce the economic and social cost of servicing the debt. Previous experiences of other Latin American countries will be taken into account. The handling of these matters will be made public and a full financial disclosure will be published.

Public expenditures should be reorganized to give priority to the state's deteriorated infrastructure, especially the generation of electricity and other services requiring urgent attention.

Furthermore, health, education, and housing will be given priority in the budget in order to resolve these most pressing social problems in the best way possible

4. Economic Reactivation

The Provisional Government's economic policy will be directed toward reactivating our economy as quickly as possible. Special emphasis will be placed on reducing unemployment, and it will take into account the people's urgent needs and the defense of consumer interests.

The new government's primary and most important contribution to encouraging investment and economic activity will be legal safeguards. For this reason, and proceeding from an agenda of priorities, the following measures will be taken:

a. Cooperation with the national banking sector to assist the banks in obtaining foreign financing to enable them to increase their credits, presently restricted because of the withdrawal of national and foreign deposits.

b. Offer necessary tax incentives to reactivate the construction sector, the stimulation of which is feasible and would have a positive impact on employment.

c. Adequately disseminate information about the new government to foreign sectors to renew the international economic community's trust and so doing to promote the International Banking Center and the use of our country's varied services for foreign firms or persons. This action will have a positive impact on the hotel industry and tourism.

d. Take necessary steps to give reasonable protection to industry and agriculture. In this respect, an agrarian policy will be developed that will stimulate production and the nation's farmers' productivity.

e. Implement the necessary measures to create incentives for agricultural and industrial exports and for providing services to the international economic community.

5. Labor Affairs

The labor sector's rights will be respected, thus promoting the establishment of a transitional social pact that will protect the workers and at the same time contribute to the country's economic reactivation. This social understanding will basically attempt to limit demands for salary increases, for increases in prices of essential products, and for the elimination of jobs.

Once a national economic reactivation is achieved, it must be translated into an economic improvement for the working classes and the creation of new jobs, thus making this economic improvement serve a social function.

Regarding the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry and the labor courts, efforts will be made through impartial, fair, and efficient actions to achieve a true administrative reorganization of labor relations, allowing the sides affected to have confidence and trust in their actions. These actions will lead to a harmonious understanding between labor and management, and the greatest beneficiary of this will be the Panamanian people.

6. Educational Problems

The provisional government will make concrete efforts to solve the serious national educational crisis. Regarding this issue, the National Education Coordinating Commission, which enjoyed broad popular support, will be reactivated. The commission's work will emphasize the educational proposal the commission itself has prepared, ensuring its implementation to the extent possible.

7. Administrative Reorganization

The administration's reorganization must begin by naming an independent, honest, and capable comptroller general. It will also require the following measures:

a. The elimination of all the so-called sinecures and high-paying but unnecessary positions. This will be done without carrying out mass dismissals and by respecting the civil servants' dignity while demanding honesty and efficiency.

b. There must be an in-depth auditing of all state institutions to determine the responsibility, through actions or omissions, for all the as yet unpunished embezzlements, in addition to all the irregularities that may come to light as a result of this audit.

c. The salaries of the top officials of the new government team will be evaluated and adjusted in line with a true national austerity plan in keeping with the county's economic situation.

8. National Constitution

A study commission will be organized within the National Commission. It will be composed of legal professionals with recognized experience in the constitutional field and of representatives from all the country's political, economic, and labor union sectors, who will study the need to fully or partially reform the Constitution.

9. Other Urgent Affairs

The situations at the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification and the Social Security Fund must be confronted immediately, because these institutions are in need of urgent corrective actions.

III. The Role of the Armed Institution

The Provisional Government will respect the integrity and status of the armed institution as an important body to safeguard the citizens' life, honor, and property and to defend the country's laws and sovereignty. However, this institution will stay within the constitutional, legal, and professional framework that befits it: It will be subordinate to the state organizations.

The armed institution will have a budget in keeping with the country's economic reality and subject to institutional and legal control regulations.

IV. Panama Canal

The Provisional Government will respect and defend the nation's sacred rights in relation to the interoceanic waterway and the canal area, always ready to perfect our national territory's effective sovereignty.

The Panama Canal and adjoining areas must become an effective instrument for the Panamanians' socioeconomic development, without distinctions or privileges of any sort.

In keeping with this order of ideas, the Provisional Government will replace all the Panamanian members within the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors and will totally reorganize the current Executive Board on Treaty Affairs.

Reputable, capable Panamanians, with expertise in this field and of a broad and renowned moral integrity, will be appointed to these posts.

The Provisional Government also will create a commission to begin the studies and evaluation of the canal area and its resources. This will include the areas that have been turned over to Panama, the use that has been made of them, and their potential use in our country's integral development.

This commission must include, among others, capable Panamanians who currently work in the Canal Commission.

V. Final Comment

Based on the foregoing points, this Provisional Government will respect ideological pluralism and promote the spirit of conciliation and national unity, avoiding vengeful attitudes that disrupt the most important task: the building of a future for all Panamanians with democracy, justice and liberty.

Argentina

Further Reports on Rico Arrest, Aftermath

Mitterrand Call Reported

PY181839 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] We repeat that presidential spokesman Ignacio Lopez showed up at the press room and confirmed that President Mitterrand had phoned President Raul Alfonsin.

[Begin Lopez recording] A few minutes ago, President Alfonsin received a phone call from French President Francois Mitterrand, who offered our presdient and the Argentine Government and people his solidarity. President Mitterrand told Alfonsin of his admiration for his civic courage. In turn, President Alfonsin told him about information he had received at that time to the effect that Lieutenant Colonel Rico had offered his surrender. [passage indistinct] The deadline was not accepted. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Thus spokesman Ignacio Lopez confirmed the EFE dispatch that reported the phone call President Alfonsin received from his French colleague, during which Alfonsin told Mitterrand that Lt Col Aldo Rico had offered to surrender to the forces of General Caridi.

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Cited

PY181947 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1913 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has phoned his Argentine counterpart, President Raul Alfonsin, to express his government's solidarity in view of the military crisis created by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's rebellion, Uruguayan Government sources today reported in this capital.

Acting Interior Minister Raul Lago has reported that "security measures, which are nothing special," have been adopted in all police stations near the Argentine border, particularly in the Bella Union region, near the base of the infantry regiment that has staged the rebellion.

Nicaraguan, Mexican Messages

PY182002 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1917 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today received expressions of support from the presidents of Mexico, Miguel de la Madrid, and Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, with regard to the recent events in Argentina.

Ortega's message states: In the face of these hard times in which peace, freedom, and democracy are threatened, please, Mr President, receive the solidarity of the Nicaraguan people who are also struggling against those who, encouraged by the illegal and repressive policy of the U.S. Government, are denying the Latin American and Caribbean peoples their right to self- determination, independence, and sovereignty.

In turn, Miguel de la Madrid's message expresses the serious concern of the Mexican Government for the recent events in Argentina, which are a real mutiny by a small group which has attempted to disturb the constitutional order and the democratic determination of all the Argentine people.

Mexico condemns the actions that violate the legal system and expresses to President Raul Alfonsin its full solidarity since Mexico is convinced that his government will overcome this hard trial for democracy, to the benefit of the Argentine people and all Latin America, de la Madrid's message concluded.

Gonzalez Expresses Solidarity

PY182032 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2006 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin received an expression of solidarity and support from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who phoned Alfonsin this afternoon.

According to the Argentine Government House Press Office, Gonzalez phoned Alfonsin, who informed him of the latest events of the insurrection of some military officers.

Alfonsin explained to the Spanish prime minister the factors preventing him from attending their meeting scheduled for 23 January.

During the cabinet meeting held this morning at Government House, President Raul Alfonsin decided to remain at the head of the operations intended to defend the democratic system.

Bolivian President Sends Note

PY190143 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan (EFE)—In an official note sent today to Buenos Aires, Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro expressed solidarity with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and with the current democratic process.

The note adds that "in your great country," in times of democratic peace and when the Argentine people have chosen in an "inexorable" manner the full implementation of the institutional life, "absurd factors of disturbance and retrogressive violence are emerging, undermining the dearest norms of freedom, pluralism, social harmony, and political tolerance."

According to Paz Estenssoro, these principles reflect the republican ideal and nature of government "of President and friend" Raul Alfonsin.

The Bolivian president added: "In this process of bitter and difficult tests, I want to reaffirm, as I did last year, my solidarity with Argentine democracy and especially with your government, hoping that good judgment and reconciliation will prevail over the intention to disturb or disrupt the democratic order."

19th Infantry Officer Escapes

py191228 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Leon, who headed the rebellion of the 19th Infantry Regiment based in Tucuman, has fled from the unit where there was confusion as the loyal forces took over. The whereabouts of Lieutenant Colonels Enrique Venturino and Luis Polo, who supported the group headed by Aldo Rico, remain unknown this morning.

Sources of the Army General Staff confirmed here tonight that Lt Col Angel Daniel Leon, who led the 19th Infantry Regiment of San Miguel de Tucuman into rebellion, managed to flee after being arrested by loyal forces of the 5th Infantry Brigade.

The sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS have corrected an earlier report and revealed that the following officers are being held under arrest in Tucuman: Major Walter Jaime, former deputy commander of the 19th Infantry Regiment, who handed the unit over to Leon, and Major Tomas Fernandez, who supported Leon.

Leon allegedly took advantage of the confusion prevailing after the agitated recovery of the Tucuman unit. The first attempt to recover the unit was thwarted.

The sources declined to give any information on the rumors that Leon escaped with the help of other officers.

Leon had been commander of the 19th Infantry Regiment until the Easter week crisis when he was dismissed for supporting the rebellion headed by former Lt Col Aldo Rico.

Last night Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, in referring to Lt Col Enrique Venturino's whereabouts, said that "we do not have it registered." Regarding Lt Col Luis Polo, the defense minister said that "I have been informed that he is in Cordoba," but went on to say that "I cannot confirm this."

In a statement made shortly before entering Government House, where he held a half-hour meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, the defense minister said: "Fortunately no draftee has been wounded" [words indistinct] in Monte Caseros, Corrientes Province.

Jurisdictional Dispute Noted

PY191416 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—The prosecution of military personnel and civilians who participated in the takeover of the metropolitan airport might be hindered by a jurisdictional dispute between the federal court and the military court.

A ruling by Brigadier Ensique Viola, retired, the judge at the Air Force military court No 1, is awaited at the federal court of Judge Juan Fegoli, whose secretary is Gustavo Hornos.

The federal judge yesterday requested that those who have been arrested in this case be placed under his jurisdiction to be tried for the crime of rebellion, with which they were charged by federal prosecutors Mariano Ciafardini and Eduardo Ibarra in compliance with the instructions of Jaime Malamud Goti, the government prosecutor before the Supreme Court.

Under military jurisdiction, however, those detained might be charged with the crimes of mutiny, usurpation of command, and takeover of a military unit.

Civilian Participation Analyzed

PY191523 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1407 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—A "large number" of civilians are under arrest for having participated, at various places, in the rebellion led by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, a reliable source at the Interior Ministry has revealed.

The same sources also revealed that "in the next few hours" Rico will be taken to the maximum security Magdalena Prison in Buenos Aires Province.

According to information the source provided to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the list of civilians who were involved in the episodes that were set off in the city of Monte Caseros, Corrientes Province, is being analyzed this morning.

It was determined through a preliminary analysis that "a large proportion" of the civilians who participated in the frustrated attempt to take over the Jorge Newbery Airport were "dressed in combat uniforms."

The source noted that "they belong to a well-known ultranationalist group and everything indicates that they joined the Rico movement taking advantage of the circumstances, without necessarily having any previous connection with that movement."

As for other civilians involved, the Interior Ministry has not yet determined to which "rebellious groups" each one belong, but their names are included in a folder that was handed to Minister Enrique Nosiglia last night.

Because of the secrecy with which this matter is being handled, it has not been possible to ascertain if one of the detainees is the ultrarightist activist Oscar Castrogiovani, alias Castroge, who was seen at the airport yesterday.

However, it was possible to confirm that they are "followers" of Air Force Colonel Fernando Estrella, retired, who had been involved in the case of the assassination of the priests Carlos de Dios Murias and Gabriel Longeville in Camical, La Rioja, in 1976.

Estrella was also responsible for the security scheme during the procession of the Virgin of Lujan to the Plaza de Mayo as part of an antidivorce march organized by Mercedes Bishop Emilio Ognenovich last year.

Further on Civilian Role

PY191603 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—Seven civilians who participated yesterday in the takeover of the Metropolitan Airport have been sent to the Court Palace building, Federal court secretary Gustavo Hornos has reported.

These arrestees will remain incommunicado at the Court Palace jail.

Secretary Hornos said that they will be interrogated by Federal Judge Juan Fegoli in the next few hours.

Proceedings on Rico Initiated

PY191440 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1408 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Rosario, 19 Jan (NA)—Rebel Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was in this city this morning while the list of serious military crimes for which he is charged was being made, but it is expected that he will be taken to Magdalena Military Prison once the initial legal procedures have been completed.

According to military sources, "legal proceedings were started" this morning at the II Army Corps, which is headed by General Ramon Mabragana.

The sources stated that Rico is being is held under arrest at the II Army Corps and that the proceedings started "at dawn."

The rebel of Monte Caseros will be transferred "as soon as possible" to the Magdalena Military Prison, in Buenos Aires Province. This prison is considered the "most secure" in the Armed Forces.

Former commanders Jorge Videla, Emilio Massera, Ramon Agosti, Roberto Viola, and Armando Lambruschini are serving their sentences in Magdalena.

Last night Rico was transferred from Curuzu Cuatia in a military plane that landed at Fisherton airport of this city and from there he was taken hastily to the II Army Corps.

Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi has decided to hold him under arrest at the Magdalena Prison.

An Army communique distributed yesterday stated that Rico would be lodged "as ordered by the Army chief of staff."

Rico Spokesman Arrested

PY191433 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1410 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—A local radio station today reported that the Buenos Aires provincial police have arrested Juan Carlos Slaiman Ale, the spokesman of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

Slaiman Ale had acted as Rico's "spokesman" while the leader of the Monte Caseros rebellion stayed at the country house in Bella Vista. He was also photographed carrying arms.

According to Radio Rivadavia, police officer Vieira of the Buenos Aires provincial police arrested Slaiman in compliance with a warrant for the latter's arrest issued by Judge Pablo Quiroga of San Isidro, who is investigating Slaiman for "possession of military weapons."

The radio station reported that tomorrow the judge will begin questioning Slaiman Ale who has been described as "a teacher of martial arts" for Rico and his group of commandos.

Arrests, Casualties Confirmed

PY191528 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1522 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 jan (DYN)—The Argentine Army has officially confirmed that 282 military men have been arrested so far in connection with the latest

uprisings. This figure includes 60 officers and 222 noncommissioned officers [figures as received]. The Army also reiterated that three military men were injured during the clashes.

Communique on Arrests Issued

PY191601 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1525 GMT 19 Jan 88

[All figures as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—The General Staff of the Argentine Army at noon today issued, through the Defense Ministry, a communqiue stating that 56 officers and 222 noncommissioned officers have been arrested in connection with the military crisis:

"The Army General Staff reports to the people at large that:

"1. The following military personnel have been arrested and placed at the disposal of the military courts:

"—from the 41st Infantry Regiment: 16 officers and 100 noncommissioned officers.

"—from the 12th Infantry Regiment: 13 officers and 43 noncommissioned officers.

"—from the 5th Infantry Regiment: 4 officers and 4 noncommissioned officers.

"—from the 3d Engineering Company: 7 officers and 46 noncommissioned officers.

"—from the 21st Infantry Regiment: 16 officers and 29 noncommissioned officers.

"—from the 22d Infantry Regiment: 4 officers.

"The Army is continuing to procure and sort through information from the units involved. This information will be released as it becomes available.

"2. It is hereby reported that the casualties resulting from all the military operations total three wounded persons, two of whom have been admitted to the Central Military Hospital: Lieutenant Javier Gonzalez Mena (broken leg), and Sargent Obdulio Zelaya (broken leg).

"Signed: Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director for institutional affairs."

Alfonsin To Strictly Apply Law

PY191554 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS Spanish 1450 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—This morning President Raul Alfonsin asserted that he will "strictly apply the laws that defend democracy" in the trial of those who participated in the recent military rebellion. This information was disclosed by author Ernesto Sabato after a meeting held with the chief of state at Government House.

Sabato added that "democracy must be strong in the defence of liberty because this was not only a case of military sedition, but an attempt to oust a constitutional regime."

A few minutes after the meeting Sabato said that the visit he paid to the president was to "express my support and joy over the victory of democracy."

Army Issues New Communique

PY192055 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1755 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—At noon today, the Army chief of staff released a new communique, the second of the day, informing that control operations will be conducted in the different military units where incidents took place following the rebel uprising in order to avoid accidents with the materiel that may have been abandoned.

Moreover, it has been reported that tanks and Army units will be moving because the troops that were deployed to Corrientes are returning to their original bases. The chief of staff also reports that some officers will be relieved and others will be transferred to other garrisons due to the arrest of military personnel that were serving in those locations.

The communique reads as follows:

"As a result of recent events that have taken place during military operations conducted by Army forces, and in order to keep the people well informed of future activities, the Army General Staff states:

1) Troops deployed for operations by the loyal forces need to be redeployed through different means of transport and in different places of the country, to return to their original garrisons and engage in their normal activities.

2) During this period unusual tasks need to be realized, such as the control of damage caused to military installations, registration and classification of detainees, rendering of assistance to the wounded, verification of weapons and equipment, and other activities that the staff may deem necessary.

3) Explosives that could have been planted in sectors under military or civilian jurisdiction will be appropriately handled and removed in order to avoid accident or injury to people and damage to properties and infrastructures of the communities in places where military

operations were conducted. The people are asked to cooperate by informing the military authorities about anything that could facilitate the realization of those tasks, and to avoid any handling of weapons, ammunition, or explosives that may be found.

4) Military justice processing and proceedings have begun, conducted by trial judges or by intelligence officers, according to each case, in order to establish the responsibility of military personnel who were involved in the latest events and to assign them the appropriate legal status.

5) The situation created in different military units by the detention of their personnel will necessarily mean that officers will be transferred to other garrisons while others will be relieved.

6) The Army General Staff will continue informing the people about all activities which, due to their importance or interest, will have to be made known to the people to keep them informed and to avoid any mistaken transmission of news that may preoccupy the people."

This communique is signed by Institutional Affairs Director Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola."

Caridi on Rebellion, Rico

PY200113 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1810 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi today said that his authority as the head of the force is "absolutely" consolidated. He said that "there is only one command" within the force. These were the first statements he has made to the media since the rebellion headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was quelled.

"The are no further incidents in the country," Caridi told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS during a brief encounter in an elevator at the Defense Ministry after Caridi met with Defense Minister Horacio Juanarena to deliver a detailed report on the military crisis.

When asked whether any type of negotiations was carried out with the leader of the rebels, Caridi replied that Lt Col Rico surrendered "unconditionally." Caridi was wearing a combat uniform with boots and beret.

He said that immediately after returning from Monte Caseros, Corrientes Province, he went to the Defense Ministry, where he conducted the military operations of the loyal troops under his command.

"The situation has returned to normal; there are no more rebel units," Caridi told journalists. When first contacted by the media, the Army chief of staff had said that he would not make any statement because Minister Juanarena is the one who should comment on the meeting, which lasted from 1300 to 1345.

When asked whether he had consolidated his authority as head of the Army after the rebellion, Caridi answered firmly: "Absolutely."

Calmly, he added "despite the fact that you doubted it last Saturday," thereby recalling that the same journalist had asked questions about Rico's strength within the Army.

"During Easter week, Rico represented the opinion of a considerable part of the Army, but now he is only defending a personal situation," Caridi said. "The Army wants to definitely end the Rico problem, and that is what is going to happen in the next few days," he added.

Caridi finally said "there is no place for indiscipline; those who do not respect the valid mechanisms by which to express their concerns will definitively be separated from the Army."

Brazil

Cuba's Malmierca Meets With Sarney, Sodre

PY192338 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney will probably visit Cuba. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who arrived today in Brasilia, extended the invitation to him during a meeting they held this afternoon. Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre also extended an invitation to President Fidel Castro to visit Brazil. The dates for the visits have not yet been confirmed.

In addition to the invitations to visit each other's countries, President Sarney and Malmierca discussed the Cuban return to the OAS, and matters related to international policy, such as the nuclear disarmament agreement signed between the United States and the Soviet Union. This matter was also discussed by the two foreign ministers.

According to Sodre and Malmierca, the understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union could have positive effects on the international community. The two ministers also agreed that the foreign debt problem of Third World countries cannot be based on accounting and fiscal aspects.

Tomorrow the two ministers will meet again, and in the afternoon, Malmierca will have a change to visit tourist sites in Brasilia. He will then pay a courtesy visit to Justice Minister Paulo Brossard and Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes.

On Thursday, Malmierca will visit Rio, and on Friday he will travel to Sao Paulo, where he will stay until Sunday, 24 January. From Sao Paulo, he will leave for Montevideo.

IAEA To Supervise Nuclear Accord With PRC

PY181735 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1532 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Jan (EFE)—The IAEA will supervise the work of Brazilian and PRC experts in their joint effort to manufacture nuclear reactors fueled by thorium, which is less radioactive than uranium.

The condition is included in the agreement between the two countries signed by President Jose Sarney in Brasilia on 14 January.

Through the safeguard clause Brazil and the PRC agreed to IAEA supervision of the work on and security of nuclear reactors to be built by the two countries.

The Brazilian-PRC agreement also restricts the export to other countries of materials exchanged between the two countries, to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation.

The PRC and Brazil have decided to grant priority to the research on nuclear reactors fueled by thorium because Brazil has the largest reserves of thorium in the world.

According to Brazilian authorities, the thorium deposits, which are extracted from monazite sand, are large enough to supply Brazil's electricity needs for the next 10,000 years.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today reiterated that the nuclear agreement with the PRC will only be used for the production of energy for peaceful purposes.

Planning Secretariat Head Teixeira Leaves Post

Alleges Media Connivance

PY180419 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira stated, in Belo Horizonte on 16 January, that the date that he will leave his ministry will be decided during a meeting he will hold with President Jose Sarney on 19 January. During an outburst before 123 community leaders, Teixeira cried and accused major sectors of the media of conniving with his political enemies. He promised to reveal, after his meeting with Sarney, the names of all the government officials "who are sabotaging the social programs." The minister, who was applauded by those in attendance, has been accused of misallocation of Planning Secretariat funds. He also revealed that he intends to run as the PMDB candidate for mayor of Belo Horizonte.

Teixeira announced that he is going to donate 30 percent of his personal assets, which include 4 factories, 2,500 pieces of real estate, 600 vehicles, and 1 airplane, to the organization of communities. The Federal Police have not finished an investigation into the charges of corruption in the SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat].

Submits Resignation to Sarney

PY191555 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira has just submitted his resignation to President Sarney.

New Planning Minister Named

PY192312 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Attention: Minas Gerais Governor Newton Cardoso has just left the Alvorada Palace, where he had a talk with President Jose Sarney. Cardoso has confirmed that Joao Batista de Abreu, finance secretary of Minas Gerais State, has been named the new planning minister.

Nobrega Orders Closure of Treasury Chest

py191316 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has ordered the closing of the national treasury chest. The main reason for this is the explosion of January's government payroll which is supposed to reach 87 billion cruzados. January's total expected revenue will amount to 150 billion cruzados.

The secretary of the treasury will only liberate resources for strictly essential items, as the minister has ordered. Mailson da Nobrega's decision was made on 14 January after a meeting with the coordinators of the five working teams that are analyzing government accounts and goals. The government payroll had a 487 percent nominal growth from January 1987 when it reached 14.8 billion cruzados, and it will consume 58 percent of the treasury's total projected revenues for the month. In the past few months the payroll only consumed 30 percent of the total revenues.

The minister had two other reasons for ordering the closing of the treasury chest: First, the working teams will have more time to evaluate the 1988 government accounts. Second, a large deficit in January's accounts could jeopardize the government's ability to liberate credits in February and March with which to purchase buffer stocks of this year's agricultural production.

The secretary of the treasury will liberate resources to cover the government payroll, but other expenses will have to be proven urgent before they are approved. This ruling will be maintained at least until the end of January.

Minister Discusses Debt Negotiation Guidelines

PY151631 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 15 Jan 88

[By Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has asserted that the Brazilian Government does not intend to ask the United States for a bridge loan.

According to Minister da Nobrega, the country will not restart payments of interest on its debt until the international financial community agrees to finance at least 60 percent of these interests.

The minister thus confirmed what the senators who are members of the Senate Debt Renegotiation Committee said during an afternoon session yesterday: The Brazilian negotiating group, now in the United States, has not started the long-term negotiations yet because they have been attempting, since 11 January, to obtain the disburshment of the first installment of the temporary agreement which is already signed.

According to the minister, the Brazilian Government is attempting to obtain the greatest amount of money possible to use for investments.

Mailson da Nobrega said that an IMF mission may come to Brazil in February. He said, however, that this visit will have nothing to do with the negotiation of the agreement.

[Begin da Nobrega recording] The visit of Brazilian experts to the United States and the visit of the IMF mission to our country is not connected with the negotiation of the agreement. The agreement will be negotiated at the appropriate time. So far, we have been defending our ideas and will continue fighting for them. We want to reach a final agreement with the creditor banks that does not have as a condition a previous agreement with the IMF. We also insist that the disbursement to be obtained from the IMF program and from other financing sources not have as a condition any earlier agreement. Right from the beginning of the negotiations, former Minister Bresser made a point of not having as a condition for these disbursements any earlier agreement, and we have been consistantly fighting for that same point. [end recording]

Minister Mailson da Nobrega said that the budget must be better controlled and that public expenses must be reduced not only to please the creditors, but mainly because these two measures will help to solve the country's problems.

The minister said that the 120-percent yearly inflation rate, on which he based the 1988 budget, will have to be reviewed and that a 236-percent inflation rate may have to be adopted.

Mailson da Nobrega said that, considering the measures to reduce public expenses were only adopted after the month of July 1987, last year's public deficit, which amounted to 5.4 percent of the GDP, was not too high, particularly because the deficit was expected to reach as much as 7 percent of the GDP.

Army Battalion To Occupy Area of Conflict

PY192255 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] At the request of Justice Minister Paulo Brossard, an Army battalion left Porto Velho ths morning to occupy the California and Vila Extrema villages located in the Abuna region.

At a given point in Abuna the battalion will join a contingent of soldiers from Acre State to occupy these two villages. According to the 7th Infantry Jungle Brigade, some 300 men are engaged in this operation.

The Army troops will remain in the area of conflict until the problem is solved.

Chile

Representative To OAS Denounces U.S. Pressure

PY160034 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Javier Illanes, the Chilean ambassador to the OAS, has stated that unfortunately, we have recently witnessed a resurgence of interventionist policies and the use of economic tools in an attempt to exert illegitimate pressure on the will of the OAS member countries.

Illanes made this comment at the special meeting held by the OAS political council at the request of the Colombian Government to denounce the discriminatory measures adopted by the United States against Colombian citizens and exports.

Ambassador Illanes stated at the meeting that Chile has been a victim of these discriminatory practices, which are clearly condemned by Articles 19 and 34 of the OAS Charter because they are counterproductive and affect the atmosphere of harmony and understanding necessary for the countries to work productively and loyally to solve the problems that affect the hemisphere.

U.S. Agreement to Talks Within GATT Noted

PY160247 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The United States has agreed to begin bilateral talks with Chile over its decision to exclude our country from its Generalized System of Preferences [GSP]. This was disclosed by Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos

Ducci, who pointed out that this is chiefly the result of the protest lodged by chile with several international organizations over the measures adopted by the U.S. goverment.

[Begin Ducci recording] Regarding the decision to exclude Chile from the U.S. GSP, a decision which we disclosed some days ago, Chile undertook a number of actions before several international organizations. In this regard I wish to disclose that the United States, within the framework of the GATT, has agreed to sit down at the negotiating table with Chile, as established in Article 21 of the agreement, for bilateral talks on the issue. According to GATT regulations, if the two countries should fail to reach an agreement through these talks, the background of the case will be submitted to the council which in turn will select a group of experts who will propose a recommendation within the framework of the deadlines established by the council. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UK Minister of State for Agriculture Visits

Holds Talks With Garcia

PY131435 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] John Gummer, UK minister of state for agriculture and fisheries, has emphasized the correctness of the system that is being drawn up to ensure that the upcoming plebiscite will be clean and fair. He made this comment after holding a meeting with Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia in the Red Hall of the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Gummer, speaking in English] ...which the world conceives to be a real expression of the Chilean people's will.

[Unidentified interpreter] He says that as a result of his talks with the foreign minister he realizes the timetable for the plebiscite has been drawn up fairly well, and that in the end they, as a country that has ties with Chile, want the world to realize the plebiscite will be fair, which is most important; that is, that the plebiscite will be fair and correct. [end recording]

The British minister of state for agriculture also said the United Kingdom hopes democracy will be restored in Chile, and that the United Kingdom will support the Chilean people's decision concerning the method to achieve that goal.

Meets Santiago Archbishop

PY140022 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Report by Jose Francisco Contreras]

[Excerpt] UK Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries John Gummer has praised the moderation of the Chilean church and its important role in the quest for justice and freedom. Gummer made these statements during a visit he paid to Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno.

Gummer said that political extremists are always ready to attack, while the church seeks changes and reforms, and encourages the people to support these changes. Gummer added that the UK Government has always respected the position of the Chilean church, which is to seek justice and at the same time to try to understand the problems the government must deal with.

Regarding the role of the Chilean church in the transition process established in the Constitution, Gummer agreed with the bishops, who have said that the plebiscite or any electoral event requires the participation of the greatest possible number of voters, that it has to be completely free, and that various parties and factions must be given access to the press and television. Gummer said these political conditions would make the plebiscite morally acceptable in Chile and in the international community as well.

Gummer added that he will ask the UK Government to support the moderates both in the Chilean Government and in the church and the opposition. [passage omitted]

Government Junta Approves Electoral Draft

PY151558 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Relay from La Moneda Palace by Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] The Government Junta has approved the constitutional draft governing voting, and vote scrutiny, for plebiscites and presidential and congressional elections.

Commenting on this, Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez voiced the government's deep satisfaction since the draft represents a new achievement in the country's institutional process.

Fernandez asserted that the draft guarantees equal opportunities for every alternative, or candidate, proposed to the citizenry in various elections, as well as the necessary freedom, secrecy, and total access to all information that the citizenry require to express its political choice.

The interior minister said that the draft provides regulations to control electoral campaigns, the appointment of poll watchers and electoral boards which would be used in the case of disputed elections.

The draft also grants the political parties, as well as independent candidates, ample authority to appoint representatives at the polling stations, establish headquarters, and closely watch the process of the elections and the vote scrutiny.

Minister Fernandez said that the transitory articles of the law establish that those elections and plebiscites provided for by the transitory article of the Constitution will also be regulated by the approved draft.

Fernandez said that the government has thus once again fulfilled the commitment undertaken by the president of the Republic to draw up laws that will allow the citizenry to voice its opinion on the future of the country through a clear process that will guarantee a free, secret, well-informed election with equal opportunities for all alternatives.

The chief of the cabinet also said that as soon as the draft is approved by the constitutional court and promulgated, the country will be ready to hold the next plebiscite provided for by the Constitution.

Fernandez reiterated the government's desire to have all Chileans register at the electoral court as soon as possible.

Colombia

Government To Protest U.S. Sanctions at OAS

PA170333 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] At 1530 today, former Foreign Minister Carlos Lemus Simons will speak to the OAS permanent council to report the mistreatment of Colombian citizens, Colombian goods, and Colombian planes by the U.S. Government, supposedly over the release of narcotics trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez.

We have more information on the subject. The U.S. Government this morning began a campaign with several Latin American countries to prevent support for the protest that Colombia will submit to the OAS today by Ambassador Carlos Lemus Simons for the restrictions imposed against Colombian exports and travelers after the release from jail of Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez. Colombia already has the support of 16 Latin American countries.

The U.S. State Department ordered reprisals against Colombian exports and travelers because of the release of Jorge Luis Ochoa. U.S. congressmen also asked for retaliatory actions against Colombia. Today at the OAS the Colombian Government, through Ambassador Carlos Lemus Simons, will outline the situation.

[Begin Foreign Minister Julio Londono recording] This is not a question of, nor does Colombia intend to begin, confrontation with the United States within the OAS. However, it is no longer possible to establish in the eyes of the international community and world a similarity between a Colombian citizen and a narcotics smuggler or common criminal. We cannot allow this to be spread around, since the great majority of the Colombian people are hard workers. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry believes that the measures are contrary to the principles of international law. The majority of Latin American countries have expressed support for the Colombian position.

Bomb Explodes by Drug Trafficker's Building

PA142225 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The entire southern part of Medellin was shaken this morning by the explosion of a car-bomb at the entrance of a building that apparently belongs to Pablo Escobar [drug trafficker and "Medellin cartel" member]. The dynamite-loaded car seriously damaged 40 nearby buildings and broke the windows of nearly 500 houses in the area. [passage omitted]

The explosion was heard in Caldas municipality, 20 km south of Medellin. The terrible explosion occurred at 0520 today. The car packed with explosives was a small Toyota with license plate No IA5251, possibly a counterfeit license plate. Even though authorities have not yet determined the type of explosive used, they believe the explosive charge was equivalent to some 30 kg of dynamite. The explosion left behind a hole 3 meters deep and 4 meters in diameter. Two groups have claimed responsibility for the attack—one of them called itself: Death to Drug Traffickers [Muerte a Narcos]. [passage omitted]

New Group Claims Attack

PA171408 Paris AFP in Spanish 0538 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 13 Jan (AFP)—A direct battle against the drug Mafia and its henchmen has been declared by a mysterious organization that claimed responsibility for today's explosion at a building in Medellin owned by Pablo Escobar, considered one of the world's leading drug traffickers. The car bomb explosion killed two guards and injured five other persons. Damage was estimated at hundreds of millions of pesos.

In a bulletin sent to the major news media in this northwestern city, the second largest in Colombia, the clandestine group called itself "War on the Mafia" [Guerra a la Mafia—GAMA].

"Aware that the struggle cannot be waged by the state alone, we have created the organization called GAMA, composed of members from all over the country and with its main headquarters in Medellin," the document's introduction states.

After pointing out that the group's activities are financed by Colombian citizens and residents, the text asserts that the group's activities are aimed at:

1. "Eradicating the members of the Colombian Mafia, either by exterminating them or by presenting evidence so they can be tried in Colombia or in the United States."

2. "Eradicating the authorities who collaborate with the Mafia by exterminating them or by informing on them with the necessary evidence. Included are judges, policemen, members of the Attorney General's Office, Armed Forces members, congressmen, etc."

3. "Exterminating all of the lawyers specializing in defending the Mafia and its paid assassins, as well as exterminating policemen, officers, and noncommissioned officers who in any way cooperate with the Mafia."

Further on in its communique, the organization claims to have a list of masfiosi and their henchemen in 12 cities, including Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla, the country's four most important cities.

The organization invites the citizens to provide the names and addresses of "all those social parasites" through fliers or posters distributed or placed at central points in those 12 cities. The group also notes that "extermination will only be carried out when evidence cannot be presented or if crimes go unpunished."

In conclusion, GAMA points out: "We know this is not the most proper or advisable solution, but it is well known that we are at a crossroads. We are finally acting before it is too late for us and too early for our children."

It must be pointed out that two other organizations, Death to Drug Traffickers [Muerte a Narcos] and the Communist Working Youths of Colombia [Juventudes Obreras Comunistas de Colombia], also claimed responsibility for the attack. According to sources close to the authorities and to press reports, however, it is most likely that GAMA carried out the attack.

Labor Leader Killed; General Strike Called

PA161914 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] We have just learned that Manuel Gustavo Chacon, leader of the Workers Trade Union [USO] in Barrancabermeja, has been murdered. This tragedy has led to other incidents, and Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprises] has just called a general strike.

Manuel Gustavo Chacon, USO leader at the refinery and petrochemical industrial complex, was machinegunned at 1000 today in front of the Telecon [National Enterprise for Telecommunications] offices in Barrancabermeja.

According to eyewitnesses, someone inside a white van opened fire with a 9-mm machinegun on Chacon when he left the Banco Popular. He was hit by 17 bullets.

Guerrillas Attack Pipeline 5 Times in 48 Hours

PA162159 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] In less than 48 hours, subversive groups have carried out five terrorist attacks against the Cano Limon-Cobenas oil pipeline, spilling more than 30,000 barrels of oil. The pipeline has been attacked 51 times in the past 2 years.

[Begin reporter Carlos Mario Diaz recording] This year's five attacks against the Cano Limon-Cobenas oil pipeline have spilled approximately 30,000 barrels of oil and 7 million cubic feet of natural gas. The latest subversive attack against the pipeline occurred on the border between Norte de Santander and Cesar Departments. The other four attacks occurred at the 401 and 437 km markers. The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, Ecopetrol, which operates the pipeline, said that oil exports through Cano Limon have not been suspended despite the terrorist attacks.

Attacks on the pipeline began in 1985. Subversive groups have attacked the pipeline 51 times, spilling more than 160,000 barrels of oil, amounting to approximately 12.6 billion pesos. [end recording]

Ecuador

Paris Club Debt Payments To Be Postponed

PA181900 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1825 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Quito, 18 Jan (DPA)—Ecuador announced today its intention of postponing throughout this year the payments of its debt with the Paris Club, which is composed of West European creditors. It also sent a top-level economic delegation to France today.

The amount to be paid during 1988 is $180 million, plus $100 million that was not paid in 1987 because of problems in the external sector, particularly because of the drop in oil prices and the 5 March earthquake.

The Ecuadoran plan, announced by Finance Minister Eduardo Cabezas today, is to renegotiate the payments to a 10-year term with a 5-year grace period.

Ecuador renewed payments to creditor banks in mid-December, after it had renegotiated its debt to a 19-year term with a 7-year grace period, with an interest rate .937 percent over the LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offering Rate]

The Ecuadoran delegation, which is renegotiating the entire $9.5-billion foreign debt package, is led by Monetary Board President Rodrigo Espinosa; it is also composed of the finance minister and a group of advisers.

Briefs

Inflation Figures Reported

Ecuador ended 1987 with a 32.4-percent annual inflation rate. This is the highest it has been in 46 months, even though the conservative government of President Leon Febres Cordero had implemented strict restrictions on money in circulation. [Excerpt] *[Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1734 GMT 4 Jan 88 PA]*

Suriname

Lachmon Explains Refusal To Run for President

FL131912 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] In the interest of the Surinamese people and to prevent concentration of power, I decided not to accept the post of president. This was stated by Jaggernath Lachmon, one of the front [Front for Development and Democracy] leaders and chairman of the National Assembly in a reaction to the election of the president yesterday. According to the assembly's chairman, if the three front leaders are given the highest executive positions in our constitutional state, this can lead to undesirable power concentration.

Yesterday, NPS [National Party of Suriname] chairman, Mr Henck Arron, was elected to the post of the vice president of the Republic while KTPI [Indonesian Peasants Party] leader, Willy Soemita, will be given a ministerial post. Lachmon further stated that another reason for refusing the presidential post was to maintain contacts with his United Reformist Party, VHP [Progressive Reform Party], and to further expand the front. The VHP chairman said it is correct for a pearson who is not totally outspoken politically to become the president. Shankar, the new president, is a member of the VHP and has twice served as a government minister in previous governments. He was also a member of a commission on development cooperation with The Netherlands.

President, Vice President Inauguration 25 Jan

FL131840 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Yesterday, the National Assembly for the first time in Suriname's history elected a president and vice president who will have wide powers. The president is not only the head of state but also the head of the government. [Words indistinct] he is also the chairman of the State Council and chairman of the State Security Council. The new president is also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and is in charge of foreign politics. The elected vice president replaces the president in his absence. The vice president will also preside over the Council of Ministers meeting and is in charge of the organ's daily functions.

On January 25th, the inauguration of the president and vice president will take place during a special public meeting of the National Assembly.

Assembly Approves Bill on Law Proclamation

FL071722 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] During a public meeting Monday, the National Assembly discussed and adopted a draft law regarding the proclamation of laws. Among others, the law on the election of president and vice president can now be proclaimed, a procedure which had been stagnated for awhile.

The National Assembly also commemorated the late Dutch former Prime Minister (Yokdan Earl) during its meeting.

Labor Movement Begins Work Stoppage

FL071700 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Today no boats will be allowed to pass through sluices and state-run buses will refuse to take passengers until 1:30 in the afternoon. This work stoppage is part of an intensified action at the Ministry of Public Works by the Labor Movement.

The Labor Movement has taken the action to press the management of the ministry to put an end to dragging issues as overtime pay, distribution of uniforms, and medical checkups for sanitation workers.

On three occasions already, Minister Wolfran ordered the management to meet the demands of the workers but until now, this has not been realized.

In an interview with our newsroom, the chairman of the labor movement Mr (Chon Ajoeb) says that the Labor Movement will continue its action until the end of this week. He said if by then the demands are not met, the Labor Movement will consider tougher actions.

The Labor Movement is comprised of 11 unions with a total of about 2,400 members at the ministry.